**Community Water Center Weekly Community Work Update**

Friday February 1, 2013

**Monson Interim Solution Project Project Description – Install individual POU Filters in 49 homes**

**BPN Site Visit**: During this week Rajesh from Blue Planet Network visited the Visalia office. On Tuesday and Wednesday we did site visits in Monson and Seville and gave him a community tour. Rajesh was able to meet with Monson residents at their homes and talk about their water contamination concerns and filter needs. During his visit, Shen and Rajesh worked together to set up CWCs project platform on the Peer Water Exchange (PWX) network. This platform will hold our interim solutions project descriptions and project updates throughout the duration of our partnership with BPN.

**Filter Research**: According to ongoing water quality testing in Monson, the current filter that is being used is doing a great job of filtering out contamination; however it would be ideal to have a filter that has an indicator light that will tell the homeowner when the device is no longer filtering out contamination and when it is time to replace the filter cartridge. If such a devise is identified, we will use it for the next round of installations. During this week we continued to look for an alternative filter, Shen has been researching this and will update us soon.

**Water Quality Testing:** The project continues to move forward with the weekly water testing in Monson. On Monday, Matt from Cal-Water tested water in a few more homes. Our goal is for Matt to continue testing on a weekly basis to ensure that will get through every home in the community.

**Evaluation:** Greciaprovided an update on the Monson surveys. Over her holiday break from school she was able to survey a good portion of the Monson residents. She also provided maps of her work. Next week Grecia and I will have a phone call to go over her final work and she will provide addition relevant comments and highlights of her time in the field.

**Next Installation Event:** Saturday February 16th, 2013 – Rotary has selected February 16th as the next installation date.

**To do’s:**

* Contact and confirm certified plumbers, installation assistants and volunteers – Rotary
* Contact residents to schedule installation appointments & send out final appointment schedule with addresses - CWC
* Reminder calls & translation - CWC

**Seville Interim Solution Project Project Description: Install a Community Water Vending Machine that the school and community can use to obtain safe drinking water until a long term solution is achieved**

**Meeting w Tulare County**: On Tuesday January 29th, the project team met with the county to discuss Seville’s application for Prop 84 funding **Meeting Highlights and Project to do’s:**

* Complete the O & M cost estimates (Includes electricity costs, shipping of product, required licenses, etc) – (CWC & SHE)
* Prepare agreement between the School and County to place machine on the property (MOU) (County & School)
* Review from TC legal counsel (County & School)
* Prepare Agenda item for February 26th BOS meeting (County)
* Include a testing schedule with costs
* Create specific list of who will facilitate the maintenance and how? (Maria Herrera and Tulare County will research this. Possibilities include Water Dynamics. All information will go to Laurie Mercer)
* Obtain quote to purchase water-jugs for families, if applicable? (Abigail Solis will research)
* Will labor compliance apply to this project? (Consensus says no, because CDPH has it exempted)

**Next Steps**: our initial objective was to have enough materials for application submission approval by BOS for the February 12meeting, we recently learned that this meeting has been cancelled; the application will now go in front of the Board of Supervisors for approval at the February 26th meeting.

**Water First Project**

**Project Description:** CWC is a founding partner in the collaborative of community-based organizations, along with community members, advocates and researchers **dedicated to developing programs and policies to increase intake of *safe water* instead of sugar-sweetened beverages among youth, families and schools in the San Joaquin Valley of California.**

This week CWC worked on finalizing the list of community partners that we are recommending to be part of the CAB for the project. The list included the names two adults, two youth, one young adult, one school board member and a couple of school administrators from the Central Valley. We also spent time reviewing and editing the one page fact sheet, email invitation and purposed agenda topics that will be sent to all invitees. The project team was aiming to have the first meeting on Feb 13th in Visalia, because that day is Ash Wednesday many of our community partners will not be available that day. We are currently looking for a new date that works for everyone, possibly during the first week of March.

**To do’s and highlights:**

* Team will choose new meeting date
* Follow up with community partners to invite to first meeting (CWC) - Abi
* Work with team to iron out logistics of first CAB meeting: location, food, travel, and agenda – Abi and Caro
* Ensure that community partners have childcare and transportation – Abi
* Continue to act as the projects primary point of contact with community - CWC

**San Joaquin Valley Rural Community Leadership Institute**

**Project Description: CWC in partnership with SHE and RCAC will host the 2013 San Joaquin Valley Rural Community Leadership Institute**. The leadership institute is structured to build a “learning network” of community leaders and effective organizations so that, together, they can respond to issues and opportunities in their community and region.

This week CWC continued to work with Sue from SHE to refine the list of potential candidates for the leadership institute. We had team check in with RCAC and SHE project leads to go over the list, application packet and project fact sheets and finalize class dates. We reviewed the list of prospective participants and decided that we must expand our list to include the full one hundred people before we proceed with the invitation and selection process. At this point we have confirmed a venue, caterer and dates of all sessions.

**To do’s:**

* Provide a finalized list of one hundred names – CWC & SHE
* Issue a press release about the training- RCAC
* Send out application packets (cover, application, bio form, overview, dates)- Sue?
* Review applications – CWC & SHE
* Select class participants – CWC & SHE
* Send out “not accepted” letters - SHE

**Interim Solutions in Schools – Kern County**

**Description: Ensure that students are served safe drinking water while at school by providing the school with an interim solution through a water filtration devise**

During this week I followed up with a couple of contacts in Kern County in effort to continue to build relationships that will help us to move forward with our school filters project, as well as did some initial research on the Semi Tropic School District – a potential new school site that was recently referred to us.

**Brainstorming Call**: Susana and I had a call to review our action plan and next steps for our Kern County work. We decided that it would be useful to invite our partner to participate in a Strategy Discussion; we will include CRPE, CPA, DHF, Greenfield Walking Group and more.

**Next Steps:**

* Have a brainstorming call with Kern County partners to introduce project and get a sense of what are the best next steps.
* Follow up with Kinetico regarding Kern Site Information
* Schedule 1 -2 days a week to work in Kern County
* Set in person meeting with Kern County employee that is working on Water Stations in Arvin
* **Upcoming Meetings/Events**
* 2/7/2013 – Kern County Interim Strategy Discussion Call
* 2/16/2013 - Monson Installation Event #2
* 3/07/2013 (Tentative date) – Water First CAB Meeting #1