

Post Event Summary

Event: Pico Union Project- Vida Sana

IRWM Region	Greater Los Angeles County	Date and Time	January 23, 2020 2:30 PM
Community Engagement Partner	Koreatown Youth & Community Center (KYCC)	Location	Pico Union Project 1153 Valencia St. Los Angeles, CA 90015
Event Facilitator Contact	Carolyn Kwak	Community Member Attendance	Under 18 years old: (0) Over 18 years old: (31+)
Event Facilitator Contact Email	ckwak@kyccla.org	Water Service Provider Attendance	DWP; Margarit Movsesvian (from LA County Public Works)-- Management Assistant

Attendees were mostly over 40 years of age and Hispanic mothers from the Pico Union area. The water topics discussed were local water contamination & regulations, groundwater, land use, and water strategies available to combat the negative effects of urban land development. Participants were engaged-- KYCC staff tried to make the presentation as interactive as possible so we periodically asked the audience questions and they were responsive. After every major point, they was time for the audience to ask questions. After the presentation, because a majority of them did not know to read or write, staff went around individually collecting feedback and so there was continued dialogue in regards to future water projects that community members were keen on participating. For example, they wanted to gather a small group of citizen scientists within their community to measure contamination levels in their water and were curious about how to initiate that.

The general knowledge of water topics was minimal. If they had any questions or concerns about their water, they would typically just go to the manager of their property and did not know that they could call the state or their water provider. The challenges that we noted were that most of the participants did not know to read or write, had little or no access to internet, and had very little idea of what resources are available. The consensus amongst themselves was that they had no capacity to ask for these resources because of their income level and living standards that they have been accustomed to. It seemed like they were discouraged because of previous experiences of feeling powerless in regards to bringing the changes they wanted to see in their community. One of their major concerns was the taste of their water-- many noted that their tap water would taste like Clorox and often looked cloudy.

Because the audience was an older crowd, they seemed overwhelmed with the information on the PowerPoint when certain slides were wordy. They paid less attention to the PowerPoint and were more attentive to what we were saying, although they noted that they liked the visuals and graphics on the slides. Some participants thought that a flyer with this information they can take home would have been helpful. They also thought that having us come out more consistently to have smaller group discussions would be effective.