

Healthy Communities Network Research of Suisun City

1205 Pheasant Drive, Suisun City, CA

Number# DTPH56-09-SN-0003

Technical Assistance Grant (TAG) Application Proposal

Healthy Community Research for Suisun City (HCRSC), is a special project of California Healthy Communities Network, a Project of non-profit The Tides Center, is applying for \$50,000 to provide technical and other assistance for our community. This Grant will be used for a safety evaluation of aging hazardous liquid and natural gas transmission pipelines that currently exist within a populated pipeline corridor. This study will address the pipelines and their impact on sensitive protected Wetlands and will be an open channel to educate the public and local government of the need to deal with the important public health and safety issues posed by high-pressure underground pipelines in the Suisun City study area. Finally, this study will help identify mitigation measures necessary to ensure public safety.

There have been local pipeline incidents that have brought to the forefront many questions that have not been adequately addressed or answered to HCRSC. The Pipeline Safety Trust (PST), a nonprofit organization working on pipeline safety issues on behalf of the public, has been a valuable asset in seeking the same answers.

Project Goal and Objectives.

This project has many goals. The major goal of the project is to address the issue of transmission pipelines and their lifespan in corrosive Wetland soil. Another goal is to collect data that will help develop a pipeline safety plan that addresses issues of aging pipelines that are part of the community infrastructure too frequently neglected and until a spill or accident occurs threatening public safety as well as posing a threat to the environment and the ecologically sensitive Suisun Marsh and adjacent wetlands. Another goal is to initiate a dialogue between pipeline operators, local government officials and the public.

Important objectives that will help meet these goals are:

- (1). A base independent study that will find a current point from which to build dialogue.
- (2). Providing local government and public awareness of safety concerns while the 40-50 year old transmission pipelines are being maintained.
- (3). Establishing trust between pipeline operators, local government, and the public.

Project Components.

The project's primary resources are earmarked for the technical study of the current condition of the pipelines. HCRSC will collect data such as age, material, maintenance records, and soil studies for an outside credible expert(s) to compile.

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This base study then will be taken to PST and other credible associates for further input. HCRSC then will complete the study for reference, publication, and finally submission to the pipeline operators, local government and others.

Project Criteria.

The Study focuses on an older pipeline corridor that is located in on environmentally sensitive Wetlands and is in close proximity to commercial and residential development. It is the proximity to populated business and residential areas that pose significant potential risk to the public. This area's urban sprawl has grown up around the existing pipelines creating potentially hazardous conditions for adjacent property with residences and businesses located in this danger zone. HCRSC through its study is going to address environmental areas along with other Federal, State, and local pipeline regulations. Current risks will be addressed as well as a future timeframe of them. All operators and local governments in the sphere of the pipeline corridor will be encouraged to participate in this study.