

ATTACHMENT 5

Westat IRB Memo

Memo

From: Kerry Levin; Chair, Westat IRB



Subject: **Amendment Approval for Audience Analysis for Environmental Health Issues (Climate Change Focus Groups), Project 8449 FWA5551**

As Chair of the Westat Institutional Review Board (IRB), I have reviewed the materials submitted for the following: **Audience Analysis for Environmental Health Issues, Project 8449**. The IRB reviews all studies involving research on human subjects. This project was last review in July 2008.

This request is to approve three focus groups with local residents of Santa Rosa, California, a small northern California community. These groups will be conducted to develop messaging strategies (e.g., implications for children's health, water resources, concern for vulnerable populations in the local community) and provide feedback on draft materials (e.g., brochures, PSAs, tip sheets, etc.). These materials will be tested with the target audience during the second phase of research. The second phase will include three materials testing focus groups to determine which materials and messages are most attractive and compelling in terms of educating the public about health effects and promoting preparedness behaviors.

IRB Regulations permit expedited review of minor changes to previously approved activities [45 CFR pt. 46.110 (b) (2)]. This study can be considered minimal risk. I am therefore approving this study under expedited authority.

You are required to submit the study for a continuing review on or before **July 28, 2009**. In the interim, you are responsible for notifying the IRB Office as soon as possible if there are any injuries to the subjects, problems with the study, or changes to the study design that relate to human subjects.

cc Institutional Review Board
Miriam Aiken