

Transforming Toxic Hot Spots into Thriving Communities

A Model for Success and Community Empowerment



Executive Summary

Faced with the overwhelmingly high levels of pollution; struggling on meager wages to support one's family; lack of health care opportunities; given the cost of raising children; how do low income, hard working families dare to take on powerful corporations like Walmart, Target and Warren Buffet's BNSF rail road?

CCAIEJ has explored situations like these for many years— and we've learned some lessons. In reviewing our history we recognized that success in confronting power was based on the community's major strength – the courage and resiliency of people strategically united toward a common goal. There is a strongly held belief in the right of all people to the basic necessities in order to live a dignified life— access to clean water, food and shelter, safe and healthy working and living conditions, a voice in decisions that affect themselves and their community. This drive for what is right spurs people no matter what the obstacles to confront power and demand action. We recognize and honor that every person brings with them special skills and talents and a wealth of lived experiences. Combining those skills in a strategic manner can overcome all the other obstacles.

Inland Valley Environmental Justice Intervention And Revitalization Program

A different approach is needed to truly address the current, outrageous levels of pollution smothering these EJ communities. To create real environmental justice where all communities have the right to healthy, safe, and prosperous communities, three things must occur—

- 1) Stop the levels of pollution from getting worse;
- 2) Intervene and take dramatic steps to reduce the imminent health threat and reduce the current levels of pollution and
- 3) Take proactive steps to create healthy, sustainable communities.

Based on our successful experience with the toxics movement and the systemic changes it forced around toxic chemicals, CCAIEJ proposed a new program similar to Superfund. In that battle, we identified communities bearing a heavy burden from toxic dumps and created a targeted, comprehensive program (funding, legal structure and regulatory provisions) that addressed these unique communities near toxic dumps.

CCAIEJ has been developing a similar program to CERCLA targeted on Environmental Justice Communities—no matter the source of the pollution. We can identify certain communities that bear a higher level of risk due to the polluting facilities in their midst. Those sources may be refineries, dump sites, landfills, incinerators, large agricultural facilities, and – as the importation of goods from Asia continues to increase – we see facilities that cater to the movement of goods and products raising the levels of air pollution. Again the concentration and highest levels are found in low income, communities of color throughout the southern California area.

Over the last three years, CCAEJ has worked together with agencies across the regulatory spectrum from federal (**U.S. EPA Region 9**); state (**Dept. of Toxic Substances Control [DTSC], California Air Resources Board [CARB], California Attorney General**); regional (**South Coast Air Quality Management District [AQMD]**); and local (**Mayor Pat Morris and the City of San Bernardino; San Bernardino City Unified School District; Community Action Agency, City of Jurupa Valley, San Bernardino County CUPA, Riverside County Health Department**); Researchers (**University of California at Los Angeles [UCLA], Loma Linda University, University of Southern California, University of California at Davis**) – to coordinate efforts and work in partnership to address issues identified and prioritized by the community residents.

As a result of this cooperative effort we have been able to accomplish a wide range of projects to reduce pollution and improve health of the residents in overburdened (EJ) communities:

- CCAEJ has received a \$1 million grant from **California Air Resources Board** to install **high performance air filtration units** at five schools in highly polluted areas providing relief from the heavy burden of pollution for more than 7,000 students. **South Coast AQMD** is providing technical assistance.
- To address concerns from neighbors in the Mira Loma Village area we filed a California Environmental Quality Act lawsuit challenging the placement of 24 massive warehouses- a major diesel source- next to homes utilizing “Overriding Considerations”. We were joined by the **California Attorney General** in our challenge. On February 14, 2013, a settlement agreement was approved outlining significant mitigation measures to be implemented to reduce pollution exposure.
- **Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC)** investigated the complaints of local residents regarding an **auto body shop** spray painting RVs in the parking lot. The shop was located in an area with homes surrounding it. Neighbors complained of paint fumes smothering their homes, unable to go outside and paint covering everything. DTSC enforcement arm launched an investigation with San Bernardino CUPA and AQMD. They found the shop was not permitted, brought the shop up to standards and it is now under new ownership and operating correctly.
- We partnered with **Loma Linda University** in conducting a **comprehensive health study** funded by **AQMD** of 1500 families living near the BNSF railyard in San Bernardino, a first to look at the impacts of railyards on health. We also screened 750 students at two elementary schools. Preliminary findings indicate that nearly 60% of the residents near the railyard have an annual income of less than \$10,000; they do not have health insurance; they cannot afford medical treatment and they do not visit the emergency room. These residents are obtaining health care through over the counter drugs and home remedies. In the school screening they found a **47% asthma rate** with children at Ramona Alessandro Elementary School.
- Working with **Arrowhead Medical Center** a **mobile health clinic** will provide free medical care to the neighborhood; First clinic was March 11, 2013.
- Working with **Mayor Pat Morris** and the **City of San Bernardino** to redesign a “traffic calming” project to include a vegetative barrier to absorb particulate pollution and reroute truck traffic

away from residential neighborhoods called the **4th Street Beautification Project**. CCAEJ is partnering with **AQMD, City of San Bernardino, and San Bernardino County** to apply for a \$1 million grant to complete the project.

- **CARB** has taken the lead in working with the Cities of **San Bernardino, Riverside and Jurupa Valley** to purchase and install **anti-idling signs** and conduct trainings on Anti-idling laws for local law enforcement.
- **CARB** is working to **educate truck drivers** and help them understand the new laws and how to be in compliance.
- Partnering with **DTSC, San Bernardino County CUPA, and AQMD**, we were able to bring Prieto's Auto Body Shop into compliance. The facility had been spray painting RVs outside in the parking lot smothering neighbors in aerosoled paint. A combined effort between DTSC, AQMD, and San Bernardino CUPA resulted in the facility coming into compliance. The original owner left and the new owner has cleaned up the property, rebuilt paint booths and no longer is painting outdoors. Residents do not complain of problems at this time. They have requested to the City that if/when that business stops operating that no other industrial business be allowed in the residential area.
- Partnering with **Community Action Agency** to target heavily polluted neighborhoods for **weatherization services** that not only increase energy efficiency, but reduce pollution.
- Partnering with **UCLA** in a **pollution study at railyards** funded by **AQMD** to measure pollution levels and better understand the disease causing mechanism; CCAEJ is translating the scientific information so that lay persons understand and to help decision makers use the information to inform their decisions.
- Partnering with the **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)** to file a **federal lawsuit** under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) citing the violation of federal law with respect to the deposition of hazardous materials when particles from the railyards settle onto the community's land.

Each of these projects are the result of successfully bringing together trained, informed and involved affected residents to engage with agencies and officials in discussions of critical issues and solutions through our Intervention Task Force in a way that has engendered trust, respect and cooperation among the parties and develops public policies and programs to better serve these communities. We are developing a model for community engagement and demonstrating development of protective policies at the community level that can be a model for addressing environmental justice issues and developing community driven public policy.

The success of our program can be seen in the cooperative manner the various stakeholders have created among themselves. Being at the table allowed the Attorney General to have a deep understanding of the impacts a proposed warehouse project would have on local families. As a result of this relationship, the Attorney General joined with CCAEJ in our California Environmental Quality Act

lawsuit. Through the negotiations a groundbreaking settlement was achieved. On April 4, 2013, to recognize the groundbreaking Mira Loma settlement, CCAEJ will be holding a Tribute Luncheon to recognize Attorney General Kamala Harris; Mira Loma Developers - Obayashi, SP4 Dulles and Investment Building Group- and the City of Jurupa Valley for their willingness to implement the mitigation measures. In addition, we will be recognizing other developers that have stepped forward to consult and change their project to better meet the needs of the community – Alan Sharp of IDI, Randall Lewis, The Lewis Group; and Brandon Birtcher of the Birtcher Corporation. As a long time champion for many communities in our area we will also be recognizing Ray Johnson of Johnson & Sedlack Law firm.

The formula for the successes we have obtained is simple and effective:

1. Talk to the people directly affected and ascertain their concerns and desires for solutions by developing a Platform for Action.
2. Pull together various agencies from the regulatory spectrum – federal, state, regional, local to compare regulatory authority and expertise
3. Combine their resources in a coordinated manner.
4. Find ways to make it happen.



Inland Valley Environmental Justice Intervention and Revitalization Program

CCAIEJ has developed a program to intervene and reduce the health risks and lessen levels of pollution smothering these communities and restore communities to healthy, safe and sustainable communities. It would consist of the following components:

1. Identify those communities heavily impacted (EJ Communities)
2. Bring local affected residents together combining their skills, talents and lived experience to identify concerns and outline comprehensive solutions in a Community Platform for Action.
3. Intervene to reduce current pollution levels and where that may take time, implement measures to reduce exposure levels.
4. Conduct a community visioning process lead by the local residents to outline the vision of a healthy sustainable community.
5. Target these communities – not for polluting facilities—but for resources, funding and assistance to “get rid of the bad and bring in the good”. This is in reparations for the years of disproportionate burdens of pollution and lack of services these communities have suffered under.

In 2009, CCAIEJ started our journey to explore a new way of addressing both, the severe pollution levels from multiple sources and the lack of services and necessities every community deserves in order to live a health, safe and sustainable life. We developed an experimental framework we called our Inland Valley Environmental Justice Intervention and Revitalization Program.

Working with the residents of the Westside community in the City of San Bernardino we developed a leadership development program to build the capacity within the community. CCAIEJ consistently focuses on those most affected by environmental health hazards: low-income communities of color and recent immigrants who live, work, learn and play closest to rail yards, industrial areas, toxic waste facilities, intermodal facilities, freeways and other areas at greatest risk for environmental health hazards. Our work within the Inland Valley is particularly strategic in advancing the goals of the environmental health and justice movements in California. The Inland Valley represents one of the fastest growing regions of the state, with San Bernardino County alone representing 10 percent of California’s total population. We leverage resources to bring the needs of these communities to the attention of elected officials, funders and key decision makers. We work to train future generations of leaders, particularly women, whose voices would otherwise not be heard.

CCA EJ developed the belief that the key to effectively solving community problems lies in bringing the diverse segments of the community together in one strong voice. By utilizing the skills, talents, and knowledge of each community member and tapping into the resources and relationships that are inherent within each community they can identify issues, define solutions, effectively advocate and create change. Each community member brings their own expertise and talents to the table, combining with others to form a strong community force. Helping individuals recognize their own strengths; learn new skills and develop the confidence to utilize them within a group setting, defines for us grassroots leadership development. The building blocks of every community lie in the relationships at the neighborhood level. We work to enable local residents to be the authorities within their neighborhoods. People have knowledge, contacts and skills that enable them to draw their neighbors into efforts to improve their community.

Community Empowerment

Our Community Empowerment Program is the cornerstone of all the work we do at CCA EJ. The Empowerment Program focuses on leadership development and a base-building approach to bringing the voices of those directly affected into the critical policy debates of our time. Our efforts are not to build community leaders, but to encourage many community residents to share leadership. Some people are strong on research and like the details; others have strong people skills and can motivate others to get involved; others have financial skills; others have good writing skills; others have close relationships and credibility with many people in the community; and others have persuasive speaking skills. Each is a leader in their own right. Each has the ability to expand their skills and explore new experiences.

Our program starts with building awareness of the environmental health threats around us, through our **SALTA** program—Salud Ambiental Lideres Tomando Acción— (Environmental Health, Leaders Taking Action). The SALTA course helps individuals (primarily Latinas) who live in the Inland Valley learn about environmental health issues in their homes and neighborhoods, get involved in finding solutions, and ultimately, advocate for local and regional policy changes that will improve the health of their families and their communities.

Neighborhood Assessment Teams (A-Teams) begins to demystify science and create local experts on the issues around them. The A-Teams teach basic science of air pollution and train team members in assessing their community. We are currently involved in 5 Community Based Research Projects (CBRP) with USC, Loma Linda (2 studies), UC Davis and UCLA.

CCA EJ facilitates **Community Action Teams** in each of our focus communities. These are groups of local residents that come together to take leadership to identify areas of concern, research and develop appropriate solutions and advocate for change.

Our **Organizing Academy** provides an opportunity to advance the skills and experience of residents through a more in-depth understanding of organizing theory and skills development. A structured 12- week class provides not only in class theory but outside practice. One does not “learn” organizing and leadership by

studying in a class but by doing. Home work assignments, role plays, practice before venturing out to the real world.

Through our various partnerships, participation in coalitions and collaborative, we expand the view of local residents to broader setting and increase their experiences and knowledge by working with other groups, and communities on issues of common concern. CCAEJ particularly seeks opportunities to partner with organizations focused on other social justice issues.

Community's Platform for Action

Our Empowerment program provides the foundation for our work. We survey and engage residents in identifying those issues of most concern. We then facilitate a process for conducting research on the issue and identification of solutions that address the root cause of the problem. From this exercise we develop a Community Action Platform. The Platform identifies short term, midterm and long term goals. For the Goods Movement issue our long-term goal is to convert all aspects of the movement of goods and products to a zero emission logistics industry utilizing electric trucks, locomotives and equipment or maglev and other emerging, clean technologies as well as banning the use of diesel fuel. A midterm goal is strengthening regulations governing diesel emissions from trucks, locomotives, ships and equipment. Recognizing that the health of local residents continues to be damaged by these operations while we seek policy changes, we have outlined mechanisms to reduce exposure to the pollution levels. This approach of developing policy from the bottom up ensures the policies are relevant to those most directly affected.

Sample Community Platform

Buffers: Maintain a 1000 foot buffer zone between diesel sources and residents.

Create a barriers between railyard and homes/schools/parks by adding trees and brick walls as a buffer between community and rail yard so that trees can absorb the ultra fine particles and brick walls can reduce the noise pollution.

Retrofit-Weatherize Homes-Seal doors and windows to prevent air pollution form entering.

Install AC units with filters in structures with sensitive receptors like homes, schools, day care centers. Install dual pane and tinted windows to protect from light and noise pollution

New/Alternative technology- clean and green locomotives, operating equipment, and trucks

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Health Clinic in the community

Breathe Mobile for testing in the local schools, day care centers

Move the gate and reconfigure operations to move away from neighborhoods.

Control truck congestion and diesel emissions in our neighborhoods.

Enforce noise regulations on neighboring companies. Example: loud horns should not be made during certain hours of the night.

Bring together a Task Force of community members, relevant agencies /entities and local state, and /or federal elected officials that can help implement our solutions.

Move the Omnitrans tanks away from the residential area

No more commercial facilities in the middle of a residential zone

Multi-Agency Task Force

CCAIEJ's program recognizes that to reduce the exposures and create a more healthy community will take a comprehensive approach that utilizes the resources, regulatory oversight and expertise of as many agencies, and civic organizations, as well as the effective leadership of local elected officials. To create a coordinated effort we sought to create a multiagency Task Force comprised of federal, state, regional and local agencies along with local elected officials and residents. Through this Task Force we would implement the Intervention Plan to reduce exposure to the pollution from the BNSF railyard and other pollution sources. This project seeks to change the piece meal approach to health impacts in heavily polluted communities and instead looks at the community as a whole, utilizing the various services and resources at hand in a coordinated and cooperative manner to build a healthy community.

CCAIEJ conducted several EJ Tours of San Bernardino for agency personnel and officials to demonstrate the issues facing this community. With the support and contacts of staff at Department of Toxic Substances Control we were able to garner commitments to participate from representatives from more than --- agencies at the federal, state, regional and local levels. Task Force participants include:

- U.S. EPA
- California Air Resources Board (CARB);
- Department of Toxic Substances Control;
- South Coast Air Quality Management District; (AQMD)
- State Attorney General's Office;
- CalOSHA;
- Public Health Department;
- San Bernardino County CUPA;
- California Conservation Corp;
- Loma Linda University
- County District Attorney's Office
- The Delta Group- researchers from UC Davis
- UCLA
- USC

The Task Force has been meeting every other month for three years. Task Force members are assigned to committees that meet and coordinate activities on specific tasks. For example, there is a truck idling committee that is addressing the issue of trucks parking and idling for long periods of time. CARB, County DA's office and the City are working together to obtain funding for anti idling signs, training of local law enforcement on idling laws, and training sessions for truckers on the law's requirements. Another committee is exploring vegetative barriers—trees and shrubs that absorb ultrafine particles. As a result of the research conducted, we have partnered with the City's "traffic calming project" to both prevent trucks from entering residential areas and to plant trees between the railyard and homes to capture ultrafine particles. In each committee at least one community member participates to ensure the local residents' concerns are addressed.

Our success in building the foundation for our program – from raising awareness about the severe pollution; outlining a Platform for Action through our Community Action Teams; forming a multi-agency/residents Task Force; and identifying resources to implement the plan have placed CCAIEJ in the position to make significant advances in reducing exposure and pollution levels. Our engagement approach of bringing informed residents to the table with decision makers has resulted in positive partnerships to effectively address the critical issues facing our communities. The past year has proven

to be extremely successful. As a result CCAEJ is in the position to undertake some extremely important projects to provide relief from the pollution for local residents.

- CCAEJ has received a \$1 million grant from CARB to install high performance air filtration units at 5 schools in highly polluted areas providing relief from the heavy burden of pollution for more than 7,000 students. South Coast AQMD is providing technical assistance;
- Joined by the California Attorney General we have filed a California Environmental Quality Act lawsuit challenging placing a major diesel sources next to homes utilizing “Overriding Circumstances”.
- We are partnering with Loma Linda University in conducting a comprehensive health study of 900 families living near the BNSF railyard in San Bernardino, a first to look at the impacts of railyards on health. We also screened 750 students at two elementary schools.
- Established a weekly mobile clinic to provide free medical care to the neighborhood;
- Working with the City of San Bernardino to redesign a “traffic calming” project to include a vegetative barrier to absorb particulate pollution and reroute truck traffic away from residential neighborhoods;
- We are working with CARB and city staff to purchase and install anti-idling signs and conduct trainings on Anti-idling laws for local law enforcement.
- Working with CARB to educate truckers and help them understand the new laws and how to be in compliance.
- Partnering with Community Action Agency to target heavily polluted neighborhoods for weatherization services that not only increase energy efficiency but reduce pollution.
- Partnering with UCLA in a study funded by AQMD to measure pollution levels and better understand the disease causing mechanism; CCAEJ is translating the scientific information so that lay persons understand and to help decision makers use the information to inform their decisions;
- Partnering with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to file a federal lawsuit under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) citing the violation of federal law with respect to the deposition of hazardous materials when particles from the railyards settle onto the community’s land.

Each of these projects are the result of successfully bringing together trained, informed and involved affected residents to engage with agencies and officials in discussions of critical issues and solutions through our Intervention Task Force in a way that has engendered trust, respect and cooperation among the parties and develops public policies and programs to better serve these communities. We are developing a model for community engagement and demonstrating development of protective policies at the community level that can be a model for addressing environmental justice issues and developing community driven public policy.

Mira Loma Settlement

For the last five years the residents of Mira Loma Village fought to stop the increasing levels of pollution surrounding their homes. In a final insult, 24 industrial buildings were proposed at the fence line of their homes of 103 families, 90% Latino. Already the families had more than 825 diesel spewing trucks rumbling less than 20 feet from their backyards – now they would be surrounded— literally smothered in diesel pollution. The Mira Loma area has the highest levels of particulate pollution in the nation – 4th highest in the world only after Jakarta, Indonesia; Calcutta, India and Bangkok, Thailand! A USC Children’s Health Study found Mira Loma children to have the slowest lung growth and weakest lung capacity of all children in southern California.

After Riverside County approved the project despite the Environmental Impact Study that found significant impacts on traffic, air quality and community health, the residents took their fight to court. CCAEJ filed a lawsuit under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenging the action. Due to the participation of the Attorney General’s office in our Task Force, they had followed the proceedings and were shocked in the approval. The close involvement in the Task Force led the Attorney General to join with CCAEJ in our CEQA lawsuit. For the first time the developers and the county were forced to sit down and listen to the residents’ concerns. During those negotiations and astounding settlement was hammered out.

As a special Valentine’s Day gift for Mira Loma Village residents the courts approved the Settlement Agreement with Obayashi Corp and others developing the Mira Loma Commerce Center. The agreement outlines a series of major actions that will greatly reduce the impacts from the projects in the area.



Attorney General Kamala Harris commented on the settlement as a “model for local governments, developers and communities” trying to balance the need for industrial development with residents’ right to breathe clean air. “We are extremely impressed with the cooperative process that took place in arriving at this agreement.”

“From the leadership provided by the Attorney General’s office, the sincere efforts of the Project developers in listening to the concerns of the residents and seriously finding significant mitigations to solving those impacts; to the City of Jurupa Valley’s willingness to step forward and implement the needed measures and oversight,” said Penny Newman, Executive Director of the Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice. “This settlement has created the ‘gold standard’ for mitigation measures in addressing impacts through a model process of how diverse stakeholders can come together and cooperatively find comprehensive solutions.”



Mira Loma Settlement Provisions:

- 1. Air Filters:** Developers will allot funds to install Air Filter systems in 103 homes in Mira Loma Village. Allotted **\$1700** per household for “purchase, installation and maintenance of in-home air filtration systems.” Funds will be put in a Trust Account administered by CCAEJ.
- 2. Restricted Truck Route.** Developers will allot \$20,000 to the City to conduct a study on the feasibility of a restricted truck route outlining an alternative route. Does not guarantee we will get one.
- 3. Anti-Idling Enforcement.** \$30,000 to the City for a code enforcement officer to enforce truck compliance.
- 4. Clean Trucks:** Requires 90% of all trucks serving the project to be 2007 or newer. Old requirement was that only 1 building (the big warehouse) was required.
- 5. Buffers:** Set back from homes of at least 66 feet. Reduce height more by removing parapets from building roofs on northern side. Add vegetative barriers along the north and east boundaries of Mira Loma Village. (Over 150 trees.)
- 6. Air Monitoring:** Developers will provide **\$85,000** to fund activities to measure Black carbon levels and other indicators of diesel. Funds will be put into the Trust Account. If we decide we don’t need or want the monitoring system we can use the funds for other mitigations.
- 7. Electrification:** Developers agree to install and maintain a minimum of two Level 2 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment at buildings over 100,000 sq feet. To charge trucks or other vehicles. However within 30 days we can elect to use **\$75,000** for other mitigation measures.
- 8. Solar.** Developers will apply for a grant from SCE. But within 30 days, CCAEJ can request to use the funds for other mitigation measure and **\$75,000** will be deposited into the Trust Account.
- 9. Green Building:** LEED Silver or higher level for all buildings 100,000 sq ft. or larger.
- 10. EJ Element in General Plan.** As City develops General Plan, they will use its best efforts to prepare an EJ Element in the GP. Dev. provides \$20,000 to City to conduct the process.
- 11. CEQA Analysis** for Future Plans must address impacts to Overburdened and Sensitive Communities: Outreach to, encourage the participation of, overburdened communities and sensitive populations.
- 12. Mira Loma Mitigation Trust Account. CCAEJ will administer for a 15% Admin. Fee.**
- 13. Parties support City’s effort to Implement Settlement.**

Revitalization Program

The next year will be devoted to effectively implementing these programs, continuing our advocacy for strong regulations of the rail industry and promoting the need for a zero emission logistics industry. We will also begin our next phase – engaging the community in a community-driven visioning process to develop a blueprint toward a safer, healthier and more sustainable community on the Westside of San Bernardino. While reducing the impacts from past development and poor land use decisions, the Westside lacks other services that make them vulnerable to negative health outcomes. The lack of availability to healthy, fresh food and produce limits the nutritional options for families; lack of access to medical care prolongs the time for obtaining medical treatment and eliminates preventive care; lack of job security and economic opportunities limits the ability to provide the basic necessities for their families. Recreational facilities are below the recommended levels for the area. As an example of what can be done through a community driven process, CCAEJ has successfully built a community park. The 13-acre park provides hiking trails, a BMX bicycle track, playgrounds, basketball and volleyball courts, an open field for soccer, a camping area, play grounds, a water play area and more. Safe recreational facilities still limit the ability of the community to exercise, congregate and build a feeling of community.

This community driven process of defining issues, outlining solutions and engaging officials in proactive, meaningful community improvements creates a mechanism for address needs and developing protective policies in a meaningful manner.

Conclusion

The residents of the Inland Valleys of southern California both attest to health problems caused by diesel pollution and to the industry and local government’s lack of regard for the lived experiences of their families and community. Suffering from cancer, cardiovascular disease, and asthma, they have brought their grievances to the industry and their local representatives, only to have their claims denied and ignored. Based on both current medical research and interviews with residents, it is clear that Goods Movement operations throughout the Inland Valleys are violating residents’ inherent right to the highest attainable standard of health, posing a serious threat to their very lives. The federal, state, and local government is currently failing in their duty to protect the rights and interests of its people. Faced with the reality of the current situation, all stakeholders, residents, elected officials, government agencies, and industry leaders must come together, assume responsibility, and take serious action to reduce and eliminate the health threats posed by the logistics industry. The lives of residents are depending on it.

Green Zones for Economic and Environmental Sustainability

The Inland Valley work is part of a pilot project of a statewide initiative of the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) called **Green Zones for Economic and Environmental Sustainability**. CEJA consists of six base building organizations around the state- Communities for a Better Environment (CBE-Oakland and Los Angeles); Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN- Oakland); People Organized to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights (PODER- San Francisco); Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment (CRPE- Oakland and the Central Valley); Environmental Health Coalition (EHC-San Diego and Tijuana) and CCAEJ (the Inland Valleys of Riverside and San Bernardino). It is a program to institutionalize assistance to those communities in most need – communities of color and low income neighborhoods that are heavily impacted by pollution and lack of services and amenities such as access to healthy food, recreation, health care and quality schools. It seeks to develop a systemic program that focuses funding and resources to these areas first, seeking to bring equity, fairness and justice as part of the American Dream. For more information contact Amy Vanderwarker, CEJA CO-coordinator at 510.302.0430 x 13 or avanderwarker@caleja.org or visit our website at www.caleja.org

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