

# CCAIEJ Newsletter



A NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT THE CENTER FOR  
COMMUNITY ACTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

January 2025

## Happy New Year!

New Year, Same Powerful Community!

Let's make 2025 a year of action, justice, and impact-together!

## Introducing the New 2025 CCAIEJ EJ Ambassadors

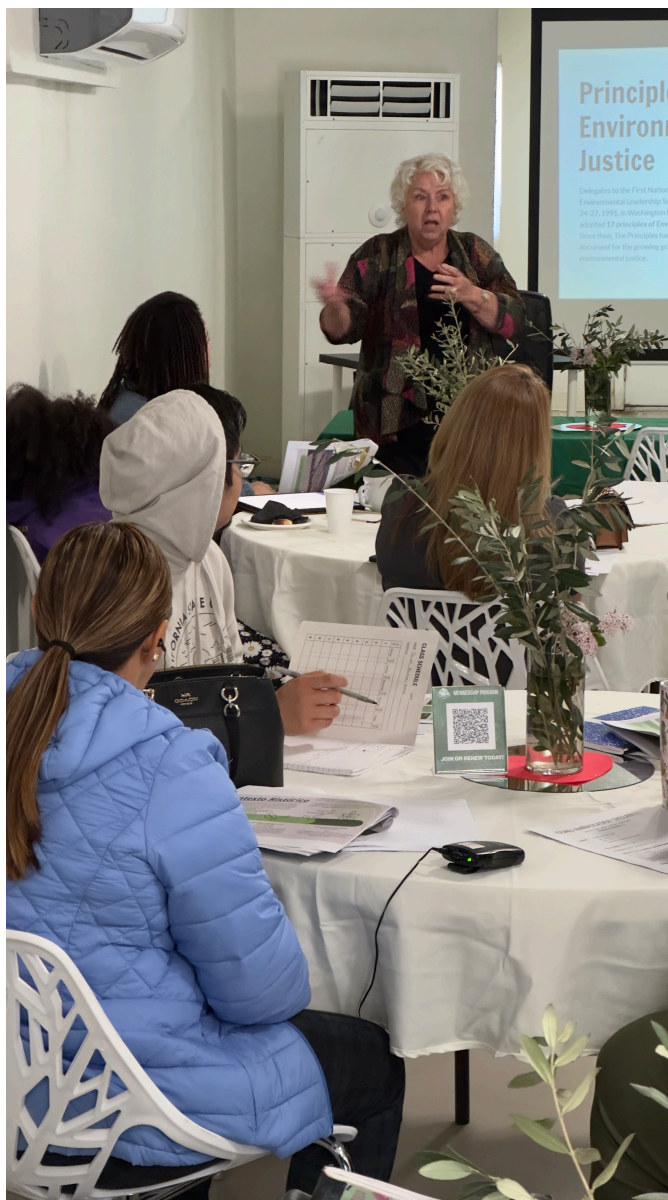
Build Power Through Community Education



Over the past two years, CCAIEJ has taken great pride in the development and expansion of its Environmental Justice Ambassador Program. This initiative is designed to educate local

Since its inception in 2023, the program has successfully trained over 250 Environmental Justice Ambassadors across more than seven cohorts. The curriculum covers a range of topics, from foundational environmental justice education to urban gardening and civic engagement, ensuring participants gain a well-rounded understanding of the issues impacting their communities.

As we begin 2025, we are excited to relaunch the program and welcome a new cohort of ambassadors. This year's program consists of a four-week series featuring interactive exercises, workshops, and guest presentations to enrich learning on this critical subject.



In Week One, we were honored to host our founder, Penny Newman, who provided a powerful recap of CCAEJ's history and the strength of our community-driven advocacy over the past 45 years. Week Two featured members from the Robert Redford Conservancy, who introduced the SoCal Earth Tool—a GIS-based resource that visually maps environmental justice disparities across the region.



This program is a vital part of our mission to foster community leadership and engagement. We invite you to join us for the remaining sessions on **Saturday, February 8, and Saturday, February 15, at 10:00 AM**. Limited spots are still available, so if you are interested in participating, please email [admin@ccaej.org](mailto:admin@ccaej.org) to secure your place. Additional ambassador programs will be offered throughout the year—be sure to follow us on Instagram [@CCAEJ](https://www.instagram.com/CCAEJ) to stay updated on upcoming opportunities. We look forward to continuing this journey together and strengthening our collective impact in the fight for environmental justice.



## California's Retreat on Diesel Regulations:

A Blow To Public Health And Environmental Justice





The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA E J) is deeply concerned about the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) recent decision to withdraw critical regulations aimed at reducing diesel pollution from trucks and locomotives. This move threatens years of progress toward cleaner air and environmental justice, particularly for frontline communities in the Inland Empire.

"Plans to meet the PM2.5 and ozone standards can now be kissed goodbye, for now," said CCA E J Executive Director Ana Gonzalez. "What a slap in the face to our community, especially those in the Inland Empire. This will now make it harder to meet public health protections on air quality. So disappointing!"

The decision is largely driven by the anticipated opposition from the incoming Trump administration, which has historically undermined strong environmental protections. Unfortunately, this shift will disproportionately harm communities already suffering from high diesel emissions, endangering the health of children, the elderly, and other vulnerable residents.

CCA E J is calling on Governor Gavin Newsom, state legislators, and regulators to fight harder for these protections. "The health of millions, especially children and elderly residents in disproportionately affected neighborhoods, is at stake," Gonzalez emphasized.

Despite this setback, CCA E J remains committed to mobilizing and advocating for environmental justice. We urge community members and allies to stand with us in demanding that these crucial regulations be reinstated. Together, we can push for a cleaner, healthier future for all Californians.

## A Victory for Rialto:

Warehouse Project Denied, Moratorium Enacted



The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice (CCA E J) is celebrating a major win for Rialto residents! On January 28, the Rialto City Council took a decisive stand for community health by rejecting a proposed warehouse project near homes in North Rialto and enacting a 45-day moratorium on new warehouse developments.

Despite pressure to approve a flawed community benefit agreement, the council upheld an appeal against the warehouse project at Locust Ave and West Coast Boulevard, prioritizing

"The residents of Rialto can breathe a little better today!" said CCAEJ Executive Director Ana Gonzalez. "While this moratorium should have happened long ago, we're hopeful this marks the beginning of a new era where public health is a priority."

The emergency moratorium allows the city to reassess warehouse zoning, truck circulation, and compliance with policies like AB98. Most importantly, it creates an opportunity for meaningful community engagement in shaping responsible development.

"There is so much damage control and reparations that need to be done," Gonzalez emphasized. "We hope the council truly listens to the community during these next 45 days to create policies that reflect residents' needs."

This victory underscores the power of community advocacy. CCAEJ remains committed to working with residents and officials to build a healthier, more just Rialto. Stay engaged—our collective voices are making a difference!

Read Full Press Release Here

## CCAIEJ Stands in Solidarity with Immigrant Communities Amid Policy Shifts

### Local Leaders Take Action to Protect Immigrant Rights as Federal Policies Change



As the new presidential administration takes office, recent executive orders have rescinded critical federal guidelines, including protections for sensitive locations such as schools. These changes have raised concerns about the safety and well-being of immigrant students and families.

Despite these federal rollbacks, California remains steadfast in its commitment as a sanctuary state, ensuring protections for immigrant communities. At the local level, CCAEJ stands in solidarity with the Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice (ICIJ) in urging city councils, school boards, and local officials to enact ordinances that safeguard the constitutional rights of all students to access education without fear.

On Tuesday January 28th, Riverside County leaders took an important step by voting to support several measures aimed at protecting immigrant residents, despite opposition from some community members. The meeting, held at the County Administrative Center, drew dozens of attendees, reflecting the urgency of this issue under the new administration's immigration policies.

CCAIEJ applauds Riverside County leadership and the Moreno Valley School Board for their proactive stance in defending immigrant rights. We remain committed to supporting our communities by sharing vital resources and ensuring that all families have access to the information they need during this time of transition.

For immigration resources and support, please visit [ICIJ's website](#) or follow them on Instagram at [@ic4ij](#). Together, we will continue to advocate for justice and dignity for all.

## Facing the Threat of Wildfires:

### A Call for Preparedness and Community Support



#LINEFIRE



# CLIMATE CHANGE IS REAL

## *Wildfires & Air Quality*

Your health and safety come first, especially during wildfire season. Stay prepared and learn how to protect yourself during hazardous air quality days.

PHOTO BY  
KTLA 5 NEWS

Southern California is experiencing increasingly severe wildfire seasons, driven by the effects of climate change. Extreme shifts in weather patterns are creating dangerous conditions, making preparedness more critical than ever. In 2022 and 2023, high rainfall led to significant vegetation growth across the region. However, from May to December 2024, Southern California faced one of its driest periods in years, leaving that vegetation dried out and highly flammable. Strong windstorms have further escalated fire risk, creating the perfect conditions for devastating wildfires. As we navigate these challenges, it is essential that we come together as a community to support one another and take action to protect our health and safety.

Wildfires bring hazardous air quality and the potential for sudden evacuations, making preparation a necessity. Having an evacuation plan in place is crucial. Families should identify evacuation routes, locate nearby shelters, and stay informed about official evacuation orders. Protecting indoor air quality is equally important—setting air conditioning systems to recirculate air and keeping filters clean can reduce smoke exposure. Limiting indoor pollution by avoiding gas stoves, candles, and incense can also help maintain better air quality during wildfire events.

For those who must go outside during smoky conditions, wearing an N95 or P100 respirator mask is essential to minimize exposure. Physical activity should be limited, as strenuous exercise increases inhalation of harmful particles. Checking air quality maps regularly can help residents make informed decisions about outdoor activities and safety precautions.

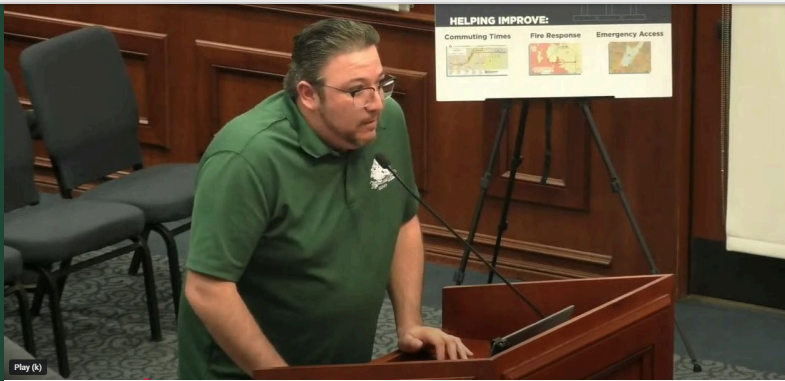
Wildfires are a stark reminder of the need for proactive preparation and collective action. At CCAEJ, we are committed to advocating for environmental justice, disaster resilience, and community-led solutions. Together, we can build a safer, more sustainable future. Stay safe, stay informed, and let's support each other through these challenges.

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## What's Up in Perris?

Community Pushback at Perris City Council Meeting Yields Mixed Results





On January 19, CCAEJ joined **Perris Neighbors in Action** at the Perris City Council meeting to stand in solidarity against warehouse expansion in the city. The meeting focused on two key agenda items—**11C and 11D**—both of which were appeals for large-scale warehouse projects that had previously been denied by the Planning Commission.

In a positive outcome, **agenda item 11C**, a proposed **412,000-square-foot warehouse**, was indefinitely postponed. Notably, no representative for the project attended the meeting, signaling a potential roadblock for its development. However, **agenda item 11D**, a **498,000-square-foot warehouse project**, was approved after the City Council voted to overturn the Planning Commission's decision. **Mayor Vargas, Councilmember Corona, and Councilmember Rabb** voted in favor of the project, while **Councilmembers Nava and Vallejo** opposed it.

### Agenda Item 11C

The City Council voted to indefinitely postpone the consideration of a 412, 348 sq ft. warehouse



### Agenda Item 11D

The City Council decided to overturn the Planning Commission's decision to deny a 498,000 sq ft warehouse project, thereby approving the project



For: Vargas, Corona, Rabb

Against: Nava, Vallejo

Despite this setback, the **outpouring of community participation was truly inspiring**. CCAEJ extends a **huge thank you to Perris Neighbors in Action** for their dedication and advocacy in the fight against unchecked warehouse development. Their leadership and commitment to environmental justice continue to make a difference.

CCA EJ remains steadfast in advocating for sustainable land use and fighting for healthier communities. With continued community engagement, we can push for responsible development that prioritizes public health and quality of life.

#### Seven Vital Conditions for Health and Well-Being



Don't Forget to Join Our



**MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM**

And members, keep an eye out for our new survey arriving in your inbox soon!



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