



The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) is a statewide, community-led alliance that works to achieve environmental justice by advancing policy solutions. We unite the powerful local organizing of our members in the communities most impacted by environmental hazards – low-income communities and communities of color – to create comprehensive opportunities for change at a statewide level. We build the power of communities across California to create policies that will alleviate poverty and pollution. Together, we are growing the statewide movement for environmental health and social justice.

2016 Highlights: A Historic Year for Environmental Justice

Despite a challenging national context, here in California 2016 was a year of groundbreaking victories for environmental justice. The wins are a testament to our effective advocacy and organizing efforts, and reflect the level of power, expertise, and relationships we have built in our state's capitol. These new policies, plus the many other activities and accomplishments, will directly improve health and quality of life in communities of color across the state. This progress forward is more important

than ever, as these same communities face new threats under the current Federal Administration. Below is a snap shot of a few of our most exciting accomplishments.

We played a key role in the **passage of two, historic climate and environmental justice bills**, AB 197 and SB 32. AB 197 ensures the California Air Resources Board will directly reduce emissions that harm health and quality of life from our largest climate polluters. SB 32 sets some of the most ambitious greenhouse gas emission goals in the nation, equivalent to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030, setting our state on an ambitious path to addressing climate change.

We published **the first ever report analyzing equity issues in California's cap and trade program**, in partnership with leading environmental justice academics Manuel Pastor, Rachel Morello-Frosch and Jim Sadd. The report opened up new opportunities to advance more equitable climate policy.

We won a new statewide policy to **include environmental justice in land-used planning**, with the passage of SB 1000 by Senator Leyva.

CEJA's 5 Core Programs

Energy Equity Program

Works to achieve a transition to 100% equitable renewable energy by 2050, and bridge the "Green Divide," in which low-income communities and communities of color are most impacted by climate change but have not yet received the environmental or economic benefits of California's clean energy economy.

Climate Justice Program

Advances statewide climate policies that protect and benefit environmental justice communities, while most effectively fighting climate change.

Green Zones Program

Focuses on transforming overburdened toxic hotspots into healthy, thriving communities using a comprehensive, place-based framework.

Building the Environmental Justice Voice in State Policy

Building the profile of environmental justice issues in statewide policy, increase accountability among elected officials.

Civic Engagement Program

Organizing voters of color in support of statewide, equitable environmental policy.



We created the new, statewide **Transformative Climate Communities program**, which will fund comprehensive, community-based climate planning in **environmental justice communities**, and secured \$140 million in funding. The program was born from CEJA's Green Zones vision to create an integrated, large-scale funding source

to transform toxic hot spots into healthy, thriving communities.

We produced our **4th Annual Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda and Scorecard**, and our **first ever Environmental Justice Agency Assessment**. The EJ Scorecard is the only report on how California's elected officials are addressing



environmental issues that impact low-income communities and communities of color. Our new Agency Assessment includes EJ Principles for Policy Implementation, with an analysis of how state regulatory agencies can improve their inclusion of environmental justice within policy implementation. CEJA's 4th EJ Scorecard showed overall improvement in the legislature, a testament to our hard work cultivating environmental justice champions.

We seeded a new effort to deepen alignment across 30 social equity and environmental justice groups on statewide climate issues, with the goal of cohering an equity-led, center of gravity in California climate politics in a new "Climate and Equity Network."

We brought energy decision-makers directly into environmental justice communities for **six workshops on barriers and opportunities to expanding renewable energy** and energy efficiency in environmental justice communities. Through this work, we ensured the inclusion of **critical environmental justice recommendations in a final report produced by the California Energy Commission**.

We are helping turn the tide on dirty, unnecessary gas fired power plants in environmental justice communities. For over two years, together with our partner organization CAUSE, we have been fighting the construction of the 4th gas-fired power plant in the predominately low-income community of Oxnard. Just recently, despite approval from the California Public Utilities Commission, new pressure from legislative leaders has emerged threatening



to halt final approval of the plant. Our organizing and advocacy also led to the passage of legislation that requires better inclusion of environmental justice in power plant siting.

We helped form a broad coalition of affordable housing groups, solar companies, and community based organizations working to **ensure the successful roll out of Multifamily Affordable Housing Solar Roofs Program**, which was passed in 2015 and creates a dedicated funding source of \$1 billion over 10 years for renewable installation on affordable apartment buildings.

We successfully launched our **new statewide electoral program**, by building organizational infrastructure such as our Electoral Committee, organizing peer-to-peer educational efforts, and putting together our first non-partisan voter guide. The program focuses on organizing voters of color to support EJ policies that benefit highly impacted communities.



From the Ground Up: Bringing Community Voices To State Policy



CEJA believes that community leaders can and should help shape state policies that impact their health and quality of life. Every year we utilize a range of strategies to engage community members across the state, creating spaces to educate each other and decision-makers about statewide solutions to environmental justice issues. In 2016, we continued to bring community voices and visions directly into state policy.

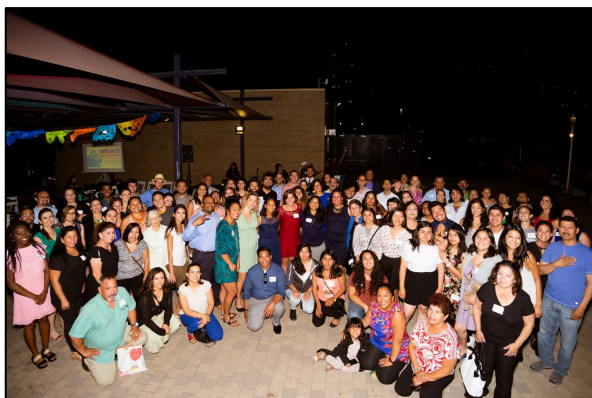
We **hosted two Grassroots Advocacy Days** to educate decision-makers about the need for EJ policies, reaching over 150 community leaders. We also **held six community trainings across the state on our core policy issues, to train 170 leaders in disadvantaged communities** on state policy and environmental justice issues.

We hosted a highly successful **day-long Statewide Green Zones Convening that brought together over 115 community leaders** from across the state to cross-train and build capacity on strategies to advance local Green Zones. We had 45 organizations participate in the Convening's 4 Environmental Justice workshops, 6 in-depth strategy sessions, and an interactive multi-cultural performance to close the day. These exchanges enabled participants to build their capacity and expand their networks by learning from and connecting with organizations from throughout the state.



Building a Strong Team, Alliance and Infrastructure

We expanded our membership and coalition staffing. We now have six member and five partner organizations, and 5 full time and three part-time staff positions. We are also in the process of hiring for two additional team members. These new staff positions will greatly expand CEJA's capacity and enable us to take advantage of the many opportunities to advance environmental justice.



We loved celebrating our **15th Anniversary at our Party, ¡Adelante! 15 Years of Building Power**, with over 210 guests and our 2016 Environmental Justice Leadership Awards, honoring environmental justice community group Matheny Tract Committee, labor allies IBEW Local 569, and Senator Connie Leyva.

2017 Outlook: Building Power for Our Communities

Here are just a few of the things we are looking forward to in 2017.

Movement-building in the time of Trump. The Trump Administration has ushered in a new era of xenophobia, fear, racism, environmental roll backs and climate denial. CEJA will not only need to protect the ground-breaking environmental justice policies we fought to pass, we will need to be bolder in our leadership to protect our most vulnerable communities. We will unite with other sectors – from immigrant rights to

healthcare organizations - to engage in movement-building and develop a shared platform to uphold the rights of communities of color.

Educating elected officials on environmental justice priorities and Trump response efforts through in-district town halls and advocacy days. These events will engage community residents and local elected officials in dialogue on priority environmental justice issues, and create the resistance needed from our decision-makers in the face of the reactionary federal administration.

Seeing money for solar on apartment buildings in environmental justice neighborhoods hit the ground. The funding for solar installations on multifamily affordable housing should be released in Summer 2017, and we're getting our communities ready through solar tours, community workshops, and more.

Shaping the Transformative Climate Community program to advance community-led climate solutions in environmental justice communities. We are working hard to ensure the new program meets our environmental justice vision. Grants should be awarded to three areas by end of the year.

Winning equitable climate policy that improves health in environmental justice communities and advances a Just Transition. CEJA is one of the leading voices working to ensure that we have climate policies that aggressively fight climate change, while cleaning up the air and making sustainable investments in our communities.

Ensuring local governments include environmental justice in land-use planning, as required under the new law SB 1000, through development of a tool kit, highlighting success stories from our members, and outreaching to planning departments who are in charge of city and county planning documents.

CEJA's 2017 Congreso this Summer! CEJA will bring together community leaders from across the state to train each other, share stories of struggle and success, and take action to support environmental and climate justice. Stay tuned for more details.

Internal strategy development and planning for a big 2018 electoral year. Our members have a wealth of expertise on integrated civic engagement efforts, and we will be planning an exciting statewide effort for the critical 2018 elections.

For more information on our work, please contact:

Amy Vanderwarker, CEJA Co-Director, amy@caleja.org, (510) 808-5898 or visit www.caleja.org