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New Report Provides Preliminary Environmental Equity Assessment of California's Cap-and-Trade Program

First Analysis of Environmental Justice Implications of California's Cap-and-Trade Program

Sacramento, CA | September 14, 2016 — On the heels of landmark climate policy wins in California, a new report, “A Preliminary Environmental Equity Assessment of California's Cap-and-Trade Program” by the [Program for Environmental and Regional Equity](#) at University of Southern California and UC Berkeley School of Public Health, looks at the equity issues in California's cap-and-trade program and makes recommendations on strategies to improve the tracking of future emission and equity impacts.

Read the full report here: http://dornsife.usc.edu/PERE/enviro_equity_CA_cap_trade

Two of the researchers from the report will give a presentation on the report findings at two events hosted by the California Environmental Justice Alliance:

WHEN: **Wednesday, September 14th**
Telepresser: 9am-10am (PST)
Sacramento Panel: 10:30am-12:00pm (PST)

WHERE:
Telepresser Call-in: **877-876-9175** Conference ID: **CLIMATE**
Sacramento Panel: Capitol Event Center, Mohr Executive Suite, 1020 11th Street, Sacramento, CA

“California has a unique opportunity to meet our ambitious climate goals with equity and environmental justice at the center. We cannot maintain our global climate leadership if we don't address the environmental and climate needs of our most vulnerable residents. Unfortunately, this report demonstrates that the concerns the environmental justice community had from the start of the cap and trade program were correct; the system is not delivering local emission reductions, public health or air quality benefits to residents in low-income communities and communities of color.”

Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director of the California Environmental Justice Alliance

"As one of several regulatory tools for achieving greenhouse gas reductions, it is critical to assess the emissions and equity impacts of California's cap-and-trade program. Our report shows that regulated facilities, particularly those that emit the highest levels of GHG and particulate matter, are disproportionately located in disadvantaged communities. These results indicate a need to address these inequities by enhancing the co-benefits of local emissions reductions among larger emitting facilities that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations."

Rachel Morello-Frosch, Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley School of Public Health

Key Findings:

1. Facilities that emit localized greenhouse gases are located in more disadvantaged communities.
2. Many of California's residential communities are within 2.5 miles of more than one greenhouse gas emitting facility.
3. While greenhouse gas emissions do not generally have direct health impacts, co-pollutants such as particulate matter do. Such emissions are correlated with large greenhouse gas emitters reporting that they emit more particulate matter. The largest emitters of both GHGs and PM also tend to be located near neighborhoods with higher proportions of disadvantaged residents.
4. While overall, greenhouse gas emissions in California have continued to drop from a peak in 2001, the report finds, on average, many industry sectors covered under cap-and-trade report increases in localized in-state GHG emissions since the program came into effect in 2013.
5. Between 2013 and 2014, more emissions "offset" credits were used than the total reduction in allowable GHG emissions (the "cap"). These offsets were primarily linked to projects outside of California, and large emitters of GHGs were more likely to use offset credits to meet their obligations under cap-and-trade.

Available for interview:

- **Amy Vanderwarker**, Co-Director of [California Environmental Justice Alliance](http://CaliforniaEnvironmentalJusticeAlliance.org), amy@caleja.org, 510-504-8413
- **Rachel Morello-Frosch**, Report co-author, Professor, Environmental Science, Policy and Management, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, rmf@berkeley.edu, 401-339-5198
- **Manuel Pastor**, Report co-author, Professor of Sociology and Director of the [Program for Environmental and Regional Equity](http://ProgramforEnvironmentalandRegionalEquity.usc.edu) at University of Southern California, mpastor@dornsife.usc.edu, 831-566-9601
- **Martha Arguello**, Executive Director of [Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles](http://PhysiciansforSocialResponsibility-LosAngeles.org), 310-261-0073
- **Phoebe Seaton**, Co-Director of [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](http://LeadershipCounselforJusticeandAccountability.org), 310-980-6494
- **Miya Yoshitani**, Executive Director of [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](http://AsianPacificEnvironmentalNetwork.org), 510-417-1775

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[California Environmental Justice Alliance](http://CaliforniaEnvironmentalJusticeAlliance.org) 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. www.caleja.org