



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.



Celebrating CEJA's 2017 Achievements

Throughout 2017, we knew we had to not only protect our historic environmental justice victories, but also be bolder in protecting our most vulnerable communities. We're proud of our significant advancements in achieving energy equity, from passing landmark legislation like AB 523, to playing a lead role in the fight against the proposed gas-fired Puente power plant. CEJA was a leading voice and a driving force for equity in California's climate policy debates, ensuring that our state aggressively fights the climate crisis, while cleaning up the air and making sustainable investments in our communities. Our ten member and partner organizations continued their tremendous work in communities that are not only disproportionately impacted by environmental harms and burdens, but also faced with a lack of adequate housing, racism, and attacks based on immigration status. Read on for our 2017 victories and a mid-year review of our 2018 work and plans.

Energy Equity Program

We played a key role in the **passage of the new energy equity bill**, AB 523 by Assembly Member Gomez Reyes, which will designate 25% of the California Energy Commission's (CEC) Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) renewable energy funds to disadvantaged communities and 10% to low-income communities, for a total of \$60 million dollars in new renewable energy research and development funds. This is the first time CEC funds will have a set-aside of this kind for environmental justice communities.

Our advocacy largely led to the **CEC's unprecedented statement announcing its rejection of the Puente gas-fired power plant in the disproportionately impacted City of Oxnard**. After four years of multi-pronged advocacy, analysis, organizing, and building influence with regulatory agencies, our victory, which is nearly final, also marks a turning point in the construction of new gas plants in California. We helped mobilize Oxnard youth of color together with our local partner organization CAUSE to attend Public Utilities Commission, CEC hearings and meetings with Commissioners, bringing their voices and personal stories directly to decision-makers.



solutions. All of the Commissioners of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) participated in at least one tour, and it has been highly encouraging to have the Commissioners comment during hearings about what they witnessed on the ground in environmental justice communities during the tours.

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 organized **four highly successful community-led Energy Equity Tours throughout California**, reaching over 135 residents in Los Angeles, the Bay Area, the Inland Valley and San Diego. The tours featured sites where local residents have organized against dirty energy and where they would like to see renewable energy and jobs



CEJA is leading on the Solar on Multi-family Affordable Housing program (SOMAH). This ground-breaking new program will allocate \$1 billion over 10 years in rooftop solar for communities most impacted by fossil fuels. CEJA partnered with environmental, clean tech, housing and developer advocates to present comments before the California Public Utilities

Commission (CPUC). We are thrilled that in December 2017, the CPUC voted unanimously to approve the SOMAH Program. The final decision included many issues that CEJA and our partners advocated for throughout 2017, such as ensuring that the program focuses on disadvantaged communities and offsetting the energy bills of low-income tenants. The CPUC is now preparing to release AB 693 funds for this purpose, and we are working to ensure the funding lands directly in our communities.

We filed joint comments on the Integrated Resources Plan (IRP) to the CPUC. The IRP is an important proceeding where California's energy need is forecasted and CEJA advocates for clean energy and a transition away from fossil fuels. We are very pleased that **the final decision of the IRP included many of our recommendations, especially to consider environmental justice in every energy policy.**

Climate Justice Program

We elevated environmental justice (EJ) issues in the cap and trade reauthorization debate. As a leading coalition working to address EJ issues in the cap and trade policy, we successfully elevated key issues of equity and air quality in the debate and shaped the overall narrative on the far-reaching climate policy deal. Using strategic communications, grassroots advocacy days, and community trainings, we mobilized hundreds of residents across the state to demand that EJ be included in the cap and trade deal.



The statewide debate led to the creation of a new air quality program at the California Air Resources Board, which we hope leads to improvements in EJ communities across the state.

We anchored and expanded our "Climate and Equity Network" that convenes diverse groups to align and coordinate around shared visions for equitable statewide climate policy. We developed a shared vision and climate equity principles, created a space for shared peer-to-peer learning, and are now working with academic partners to develop a set of climate and equity statewide policy metrics and outcomes.

Green Zones Program

We engaged in extensive advocacy and organizing, and we **provided critical community-led input to help shape the new Transformative Climate Communities Program** before the Strategic Growth Council (SGC). We coordinated our members' and partners' community engagement efforts with the SGC and executed plans and strategies to create some of the most comprehensive, community-oriented climate investment guidelines in existence. We also successfully secured a \$10 million allocation for the program's continuation in the future.

We developed and released a 164-page "SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit," to ensure that the policy we helped pass in 2016 is successful in requiring cities and counties to adopt an environmental justice (EJ) element or integrate EJ-related policies, objectives, and goals into their General Plans. The Toolkit targets local governments, planners, and community groups with the most current and effective practices in EJ planning, methods for identifying disadvantaged communities, plans for successful community engagement, potential funding sources, and other strategies for implementing the requirements of SB 1000. We have already received numerous awards for the Toolkit, and have given dozens of presentations and record-breaking webinars about it around the country.



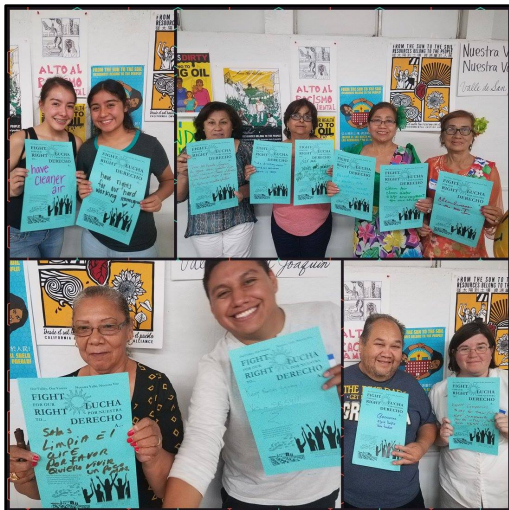
Building the Environmental Justice Voice in State Policy

We produced our 5th Annual Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda and Scorecard, and our 2nd Annual Environmental Justice Agency Assessment. These



are the only reports in the state to assess how well elected officials and state agencies support actions to address environmental issues that impact low-income communities and communities of color. CEJA's 5th EJ Scorecard showed an urgent need for improvement, with a sharp decline in the scores of Governor Brown, legislators, as well as cumulatively across the API, Latino, and Black Caucuses and regions across the

state. Similarly, our agency assessment revealed that many state agencies still make decisions that actively harm EJ communities and fail to meaningfully prioritize long-standing health and quality of life needs. Using these reports, we successfully cultivate champions on our issues, hold decision-makers accountable, and build the profile and political power of EJ issues in statewide policy.



We hosted our fifth annual Congreso: “Reimagining Resistance” in Sacramento. Over 150 residents from highly impacted communities throughout California came together and descended upon the capitol to share their experience with each other and to meet with Assembly Members and Senators to advocate on policies that affect the health and safety of our communities.

We held four highly successful in-district Environmental Justice Townhall Meetings

throughout California, bringing together over 250 resident leaders to engage state-level decision-makers and resist the federal administration’s reactionary policies.

Building a strong team, alliance and infrastructure

We hired our first ever Executive Director, Gladys Limón, who brings dynamic, visionary, and unifying leadership to guide our collective work to the next level of impact. CEJA’s previous Co-Directors, Strela Cervas and Amy Vanderwarker, continue to provide leadership and continuity with all of our campaigns, in their new roles as Statewide Organizing Director and Senior Policy Strategist, respectively.

We nearly doubled our coalition staffing.

We now have 10 full time staff positions:

- Executive Director
- Statewide Organizing Director
- Senior Policy Strategist
- Development Director
- Policy Advocate
- Communications Manager
- Green Zones Program Manager
- Civic Engagement Program Associate
- Climate Justice Program Associate
- Operations Manager
- Part-time Grant Writer



We also expect to hire soon for our 12th staff member: a new full-time Energy Equity Program Manager, to handle the expanded energy program workload. We are thrilled with the growth of our CEJA staff team, which greatly expanded CEJA’s capacity and is enabling us to take advantage of the many opportunities to advance EJ.

2018 Mid-Year Review

Here are just a few of the things we are working on so far in 2018.

Advancing a pathway to 100% renewable energy. In 2017, California legislative leadership launched an ambitious plan to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2045. While this plan was held, in 2018 CEJA is continuing to champion the need for a transformative policy to achieve a 100% zero-carbon grid in California.

Connecting new funding for solar on apartment buildings to environmental justice neighborhoods. The new Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) program will allocate \$1 billion over 10 years in rooftop solar for communities most impacted by fossil fuels, and should be released in Summer 2017. We're getting our communities ready through solar tours, community workshops, and more.

Mobilizing residents to participate in and shape a week of climate justice actions in the lead up to the Global Climate Action Summit. On September 8th, tens of thousands of people will mobilize in the streets of San Francisco as part of the People's Climate Movement's (PCM) national and global day of action on climate. This mass mobilization will kick-off a week of actions from September 8th – 15th, leading up to the Global Climate Action Summit in San Francisco. CEJA is deeply engaging in leading key PCM actions and elevating the voices of frontline communities of color across the state, for this unique opportunity to shape future climate justice policies.

Ensuring local governments include environmental justice in land-use planning, as required under the new law SB 1000. We are widely distributing our SB 1000 Tool Kit, highlighting success stories from our members, and outreaching to planning departments who are in charge of city and county planning documents.

Building and conducting our first-ever civic engagement field program for a big push in the 2018 elections. Our members have a wealth of expertise on integrated civic engagement efforts, and we are planning an exciting statewide effort for the critical 2018 elections. Seven of our member organizations are active in our civic engagement program – APEN, CAUSE, CBE, CCAEJ, CRPE, EHC and PODER – and we are building a strong civic engagement infrastructure this year and beyond.

For more information on our work, please contact:

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