



# GROWING THE STATEWIDE MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

Annual Report 2018





## About the California Environmental Justice Alliance

CEJA is a statewide, community-led alliance that works to achieve environmental justice (EJ) 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](http://www.caleja.org)

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# Message from the Executive Director



## DEAR FRIEND OF CEJA,

I'm pleased to take this opportunity to reflect on all that the California Environmental Justice Alliance team accomplished last year.

Coming into 2018, we knew we had to not only protect our historic environmental justice victories, but also be bolder in advancing policies for the benefit of our most vulnerable communities.

CEJA continued to be a leading voice for equity in California's climate and energy policy debates. Our environmental policies must lead with equity; otherwise, they will continue to fail all of our communities and future generations.

I am proud to present a few highlights of CEJA's key achievements in 2018:

- Played a lead role in passing the landmark energy equity bill SB 100
- Mobilized 200 environmental justice leaders to join 30,000 people in the streets at the People's Climate Mobilization and a week of action in the Bay Area
- Strengthened the leadership of over 1,500 residents through CEJA's Green Zones Program to advance EJ in land use planning
- Made a big push to help win on 5 ballot initiatives in November
- Our 10 member and partner organizations built power in communities most affected by environmental hazards

These are just a few highlights of our many landmark victories in 2018, achieved through our exceptional alliance and the strength of our member and partner organizations throughout the state. United, we raised the voices and priorities of local communities at the statewide level to achieve systemic change.

In 2019, we will continue to fight to ensure our communities see real improvements and investments on the ground.

Together, we will lift community-led solutions and build power to achieve environmental health and justice and a clean, safe, sustainable future for all California families!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gladys Limón".

Gladys Limón  
*CEJA Executive Director*





# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE



# 2018 CEJA Member & Partner Organizations

## CORE MEMBERS

Core members are base-building environmental justice organizations who staff CEJA's program committees and Steering Committee.



Asian Pacific Environmental Network

[www.apen4ej.org](http://www.apen4ej.org)



Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

[www.ccaej.org](http://www.ccaej.org)



Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

[www.crpe-ej.org](http://www.crpe-ej.org)



Communities for a Better Environment

[www.cbecal.org](http://www.cbecal.org)



Environmental Health Coalition

[www.environmentalhealth.org](http://www.environmentalhealth.org)



People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights

[www.podersf.org](http://www.podersf.org)

## PARTNERS

Partners do environmental justice-related work and staff CEJA's program committees.



Central Coast United for a Sustainable Economy

[www.causenow.org](http://www.causenow.org)



Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

[www.leadershipcounsel.org](http://www.leadershipcounsel.org)



Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles

[www.psr-la.org](http://www.psr-la.org)



Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education

[www.scopela.org](http://www.scopela.org)



# 2018 Program Highlights



## ENERGY EQUITY

### Vision

CEJA's vision is for California to transition to 100% equitable renewable energy by 2050. We believe that transition must start with people and communities who are most directly impacted by our current fossil fuel economy.

We want to transform low-income communities and communities of color into priority investment areas for green buildings, green technology and green energy installations. We want every low-income community of color to have energy efficient buildings, rooftop solar, smart micro grids and energy storage so that our communities will be able to produce and distribute their own local power.

We want high quality local jobs – jobs that launch community members into long-term careers. We want to create clean energy jobs that can sustain our families and build local economic power.

### SB 100 (De León)

SB 100 sets the pathway to achieve 100% renewable and zero-carbon electricity in California by 2045. CEJA played a lead role, including by mobilizing our members to target key decision-makers, supporting former Senator De León's efforts, and serving as the major EJ voice in a powerful coalition that won this victory.

### Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program

This new program will allocate \$1 billion over 10 years in rooftop solar for communities most impacted by fossil fuels. CEJA led on advocacy before the Public Utilities Commission and, together with our members, is now leading on implementation to ensure that outreach is equitable and funds land directly in EJ communities.

### Regulatory advocacy at the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission

CEJA advocated in proceedings to ensure EJ communities receive equitable economic and renewable energy benefits through:

- Integrated Resources Plan
- Net Metering 2.0
- Electric Program Investment Charge
- SB 350

## CLIMATE JUSTICE



leading up to former Governor Brown's 2018 Global Climate Action Summit. These actions played a pivotal role in raising community voices and solutions and shaped political opportunities in statewide climate and energy policy in 2019 and beyond.

### Climate and Equity Network

CEJA convened 32 diverse groups to develop a shared vision for equitable statewide climate policy. We collaboratively developed climate equity principles and provided peer-to-peer learning opportunities. With academic partners, we also launched a research project to create a framework for just transition in California climate policy.

### Vision

Climate change is one of the most urgent issues facing humanity today, particularly in low-income communities of color – in California and across the globe. Despite being an international leader on climate, California has many policies that fail to address the needs of communities who are already bearing the burden of dirty fossil fuels and who will be hit first and worst by climate change.

To fight climate change, we need a next generation of climate policies that will lead to drastic cuts in greenhouse gas emissions. The current system will not lead to sufficient air quality, public health or local economic improvements in vulnerable communities in California or abroad. As our state develops long-term, large-scale policy solutions, we have a unique opportunity to address long-standing environmental justice issues while fighting climate change.

### California Air Resources Board (CARB)

CEJA was a leading voice at CARB. We expanded EJ knowledge and built a broader, more comprehensive approach to climate regulations and impacts. We commented extensively on the Scoping Plan, AB 197, and AB 398. CEJA also advocated for more rigorous development and implementation of AB 617 implementation to address long-standing air quality issues in EJ communities.

### Solidarity to Solutions

CEJA mobilized 200 EJ residents and played a key role in the collective organizing of the September People's Climate Mobilization of 30,000 in San Francisco. We also supported the Climate Justice Alliance's It Takes Roots' week of actions,



## GREEN ZONES



### Vision

The Green Zones Program uses community-led solutions to transform areas overburdened by pollution into healthy neighborhoods. We want to increase the power of our communities to guide development and investments in our neighborhoods.

With communities leading the way, communities, government, and businesses can collaborate to transition toxic hotspots into thriving Green Zones. We want the residents most impacted to provide guidance for how to get out harmful elements, like toxic industries, and bring in beneficial elements, like renewable energy and affordable housing. Together, we can cultivate dozens of vibrant communities and advance visionary policies so that Green Zones becomes a model for strengthening local economies, environments, and democracies across California and the country.

We want to see state and local agencies distribute public funding in a way that is responsive and accountable to our community visions. By accurately identifying Green Zones – communities that need to transition from toxic hotspots into healthy neighborhoods – using CalEnviroScreen, we can direct a whole range of resources and programs into these areas.

### Green Zones trainings

CEJA conducted 19 trainings for 1,500 EJ residents on how to integrate EJ practices into land use planning at local, state and national levels. Of those, 13 trainings focused on our award-winning SB 1000 Implementation Toolkit, which equips residents with resources to ensure that the policy we helped pass in 2016 successfully requires cities and counties to integrate EJ elements into their General Plans. We also hosted 2 Green Zones Tours for nearly 60 EJ residents to cross-strategize on Green Zones solutions.

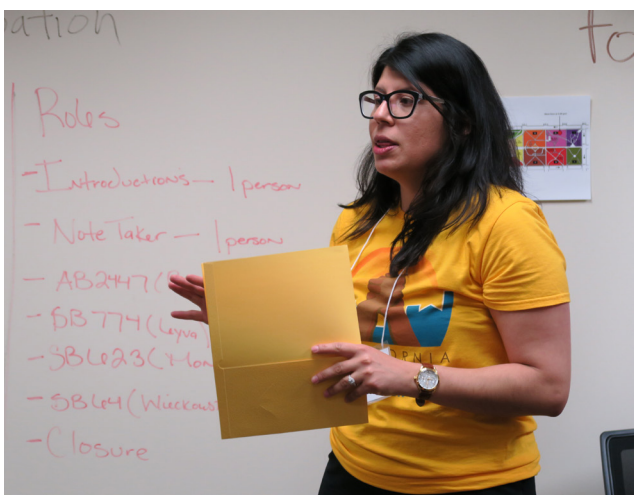
Green Zone resources released:

- **CalEnviroScreen:** A report that describes version 3.0 of this tool, how it has been used successfully in policy, and the importance of assessing cumulative impacts.
- **Green Zones Report:** An updated report featuring nine case studies of EJ communities that have led their own Green Zones projects.
- **calgreenzones.org:** A website to house reports, tools, and updates on our Green Zones work.

### Transformative Climate Communities Program

CEJA organized and advocated to secure \$40 million for this program, which supports community-led climate planning. We successfully advocated for equity, air quality improvement and public health investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for this program.

## BUILDING THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE VOICE IN STATE POLICY



These reports help us cultivate EJ champions, hold decision-makers accountable, and build the profile and political power of EJ issues in statewide policy.



### Vision

We need to build the overall profile and voice of environmental justice in statewide policy by educating decision-makers on environmental justice, cultivating champions on our issues, and finding more ways to hold decision-makers accountable.

This work allows CEJA to support a wider range of key environmental justice issues in state policy, thus building political power, developing new allies, and encouraging the passage of more equitable environmental policy overall. It is also a way to reflect the broad vision of our movement.

### CEJA's EJ Scorecards and EJ Agency Assessment

- Our 5th and 6th annual EJ Scorecards are the only reports that assessed how well California elected officials supported actions to address environmental issues that impact low-income communities of color.
- Our 2nd annual EJ Agency Assessment fully assessed 9 government agencies and included 6 other agencies to watch.

### Days of action

Over 16 days of action, CEJA and our members convened 127 community leaders with 187 key staff from elected officials' offices in the state legislature and agencies. Many of these meetings were in-district events co-hosted by CEJA member and partner organizations to connect decision-makers to local issues.



## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



### Vision

CEJA and our members have a big vision for change in California. To achieve our vision, civic engagement, including electoral work, is a critical strategy for our toolbox. CEJA has several members who are already electoral powerhouses, and the potential impact of our program is enormous. In addition, we are filling a niche. No other statewide electoral programs focus specifically on environmental issues that impact communities of color, and few other statewide programs mobilize communities of color on environmental issues.

Our overall vision is to organize voters of color in support of equitable environmental policy on a statewide level. Our program provides infrastructure, resources and coordination to our member organizations, who run on-the-ground field efforts. It is integrated with our other, long-standing civic engagement strategies of community training, strategic policy advocacy, and mobilizing communities of color. Our program leverages and helps grow the existing electoral programs of our member organizations into a larger statewide force for equitable statewide environmental policy.

This strategy helps us build the political power of communities that have long been left out of environmental decision-making, develops stronger accountability with elected officials, and ensures that our state's environmental policies protect the health and quality of life of our most vulnerable residents.

### Gubernatorial Forum

We hosted our first-ever gubernatorial forum for 150 participants in Southeast Los Angeles County. Voters of color from EJ communities questioned the candidates about their top priorities and their positions on environmental justice, uplifting working families, and other key social justice issues.

### Climate justice voter polling

CEJA coordinated a statewide climate polling program across the constituent bases of our member organizations to better understand how residents in communities of color perceive climate issues, what messages are most effective for them, and how we can expand a shared, statewide identity of residents who see climate justice as a critical issue to inform our organizing strategies in the future.

### November elections

CEJA released a Voter Guide with guidance on key ballot initiatives. We made a big push to organize voters in EJ communities, and we won on 5 initiatives.

# Looking Ahead into 2019

## Gas Plant Retirement Campaign

CEJA and our partner, the Sierra Club, will launch an exciting organizing and movement-building campaign to push California to fully transition off of fossil fuels for electrical generation.

## Governor Newsom

We look forward to working with Governor Newsom and other newly-elected officials to ensure they prioritize and serve EJ communities and that they follow through on commitments to EJ issues.

## 100% Renewable Energy Future for California

Advancing this work includes successfully developing and implementing SB 100 at the regulatory level with a focus on equity. It includes securing clean energy projects in EJ communities and resources including funding from the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing program and Electric Program Investment Charge.

## Long-Term Vision for Climate Justice in California

CEJA will move forward efforts before the legislature and the California Air Resources Board to advance a pathway for a just transition off of fossil fuels.

## SB 1000

We will continue to ensure that municipalities include EJ elements in land-use planning by distributing our SB 1000 Tool Kit, hosting educational workshops, and organizing Green Zone Tours.

## 2019 Congreso

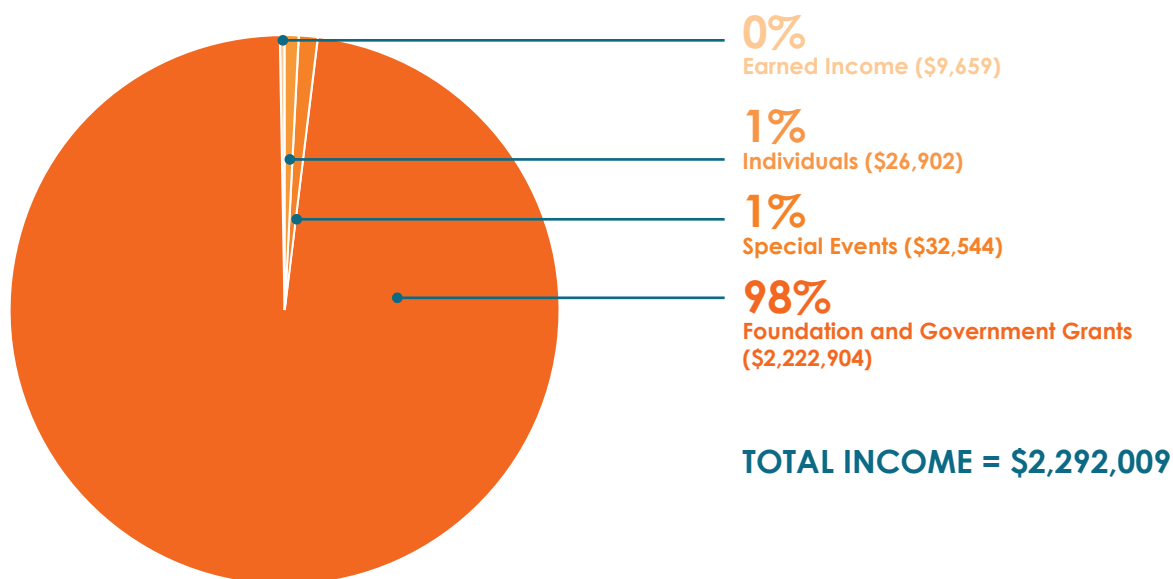
CEJA will bring together 100+ community leaders from across the state to learn about Green Zones and intersectional issues, share stories of struggle and success, cross-train, and take action to support environmental justice.



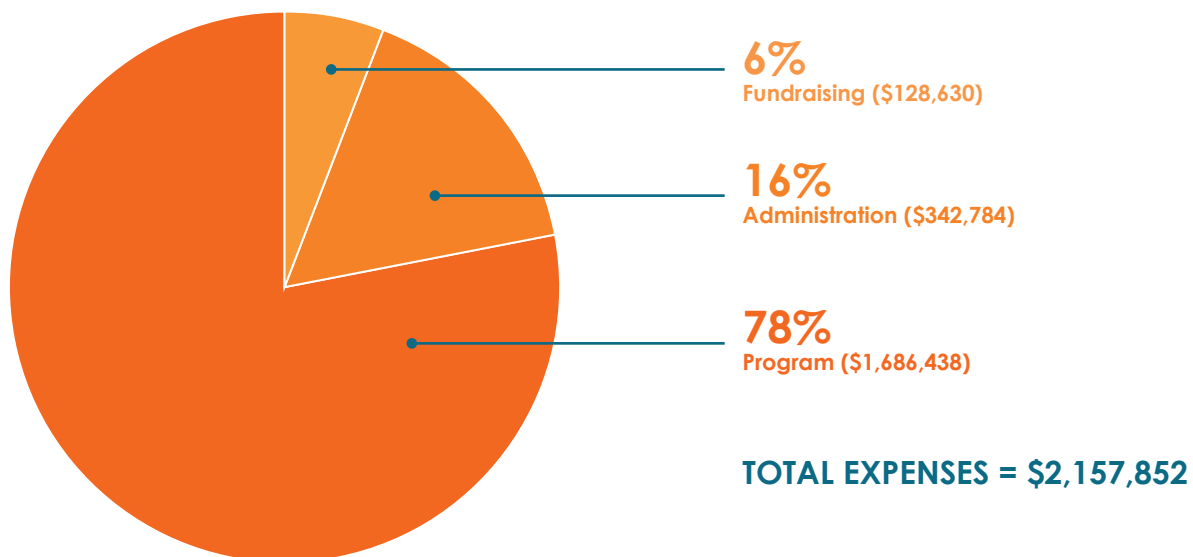


# 2018 Financial Report

## INCOME



## EXPENSES



# 2018 CEJA Supporters

**Thank you for partnering with CEJA to grow the statewide movement for environmental health and social justice. CEJA's victories are possible only because of your generosity!**

## FUNDERS

11th Hour Project  
Anonymous Foundation  
California Department of Public Health  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
Climate Advocacy Lab / Partnership Project  
Energy Foundation  
James Irvine Foundation  
JPB Foundation  
Jumpstart Initiative / Rockefeller Philanthropies  
Normandie Foundation  
Patagonia Inc.  
Patagonia-Tides Climate Initiatives Grant Program  
Penney Family Fund  
Resources Legacy Fund  
Sierra Club Foundation  
Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
Solidago Foundation  
Solutions Project  
Still We Rise Fund / Common Counsel Foundation  
Surdna Foundation  
The California Endowment  
The California Wellness Foundation  
Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock

Victor & Lorraine Honig Fund / Common Counsel Foundation

Weingart Foundation

William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

## ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORTERS

Berkeley United Students  
Earthjustice  
Greenfaith  
Sierra Club  
Sunrun  
United Food & Commercial Workers Union (UFCW)

## INDIVIDUAL DONORS

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Colleen Callahan  
Janet Carlson  
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Gopal Dayaneni  
Sara Draper-Zivetz  
Richard Drury  
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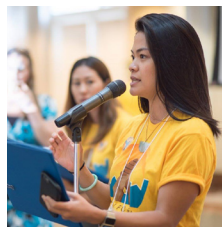
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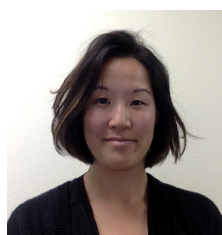
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