Environmental Justice

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Energy Systems and frontline Communities in the San Joaquin Valley

Nayamin Martinez, Director
The Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)

Vision

CCEJN will end *environmental racism*, achieve *economic justice* and *health equity* through sustainable regional solutions.

Mission

Empower our communities and secure our children’s future by eliminating negative environmental impacts in low income and communities of color in the Central Valley.
Environmental Justice

The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.
Disadvantaged communities in the Central Valley
Central Valley of California

• Main sources of pollution:
  • Pesticides & fertilizers
  • Oil & Gas
  • Dairies
  • Waste disposal facilities
  • Biomass Facilities
  • Highways (99 & 5)
  • Warehouses
Environmental Hazards

* Agriculture: Fertilizers + Pesticides = Air & Water contamination
* Major transportation arteries
* Oil & gas
* Distribution centers

Social Vulnerability

* Poverty
* Low levels of formal education
* Low English literacy
* Lack of direct local representation
Energy Challenges in EJ Communities: Tombstone Territory

- Small unincorporated community in Fresno County consisting of 57 rural residential lots.
  - The Median Household Income (MHI) for the Tombstone area is $27,400.
- Home use **Propane Gas**; rely on **private wells** for their drinking water and on **Swamp Coolers** instead of AC units.
Other Energy Challenges

- Low income families in EJ communities struggle during the Summer months to pay for the utility bills.
- Low income families, especially those with limited English proficiency, have been victim of scams from dishonest solar panel companies.
Other Energy Challenges

- Large utility companies (PG&E and Southern California Edison) are the only options for residents in the Central Valley; we do not have access to local Energy Choice initiatives

- Inadequate resources to build community’s resilience to climate change

- For example, generators that use diesel are considered the primary source of power in case of a blackouts, use of these will only exacerbate the existing air quality problems that we are facing. The Central Valley has the worst air quality in the nation
Questions?

Nayamin Martinez  
*Director*  
*Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)*  
[www.ccejn.org](http://www.ccejn.org)

4991 E. McKinley Ave. Ste. 109  
Fresno CA 93727  
Cell: 559-351-6398; Office: 559-272-4874 ext. 15  
Email: nayamin.martinez@ccejn.org