

Environmental Justice Resource Guide

A Handbook for Communities and Decision-Makers



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U.S. EPA Region 9's Environmental Justice Program (clockwise from top left: Karen Henry, Deldi Reyes, Sharon Murray, Zoë Heller, Debbie Lowe Liang).

Tools and Resources

Citizens Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)—a guide that explains NEPA, how it is implemented, and how people outside the federal government can better participate in environmental impact assessments.

www.nepa.gov/nepa/Citizens_Guide_Dec07.pdf

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(775) 687-9483
tsmith@ndep.nv.gov

Regional Map

● Locations of Projects Highlighted in this Guide



Community Guide to Recognizing and Reporting Pesticide Problems

www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/comguide

Contact: Veda Federighi, (916) 445-3974

In Your Home

The Inside Story: A Guide to Indoor Air Quality

www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/insidest.html

Monique Nivelon, (415) 947-4195

A Citizen's Guide to Radon: The Guide to Protecting Yourself and Your Family from Radon

www.epa.gov/radon/pubs/citguide.html

(English and Spanish)

Monique Nivelon (415) 947-4195

Lead in Your Home: A Parent's Reference Guide

www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadrev.pdf

Contact: Marjorie Xavier, (415) 947-4164

Testing Your Home for Lead

www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/leadtest.pdf

Contact: Marjorie Xavier, (415) 947-4164

Environmental Enforcement

Report environmental violations or spills

www.epa.gov/epahome/violations.htm

(800) 300-2193

General information, tips, or complaints

Eileen Boken, (415) 972-3757 or (866) EPA-WEST

Other Resources

From exposure to illness: Community Health Studies and Environmental Contamination—sharing the experience and perspective of public health staff who study links between environmental exposure to chemicals and health effects.

www.communityhealthstudies.com

Community Based Air Toxics Projects —descriptions of community-based air toxics projects designed to assess and address health and environmental issues at the local level.	www.epa.gov/air/toxicair/community
Improving Air Quality in Your Community —activities for reducing both indoor and outdoor pollution, information about costs, and how local communities can apply for EPA grants to kick-start their activities.	www.epa.gov/air/community
Pesticide Resources	
California Department of Pesticide Regulation fact sheets —consumer information about pesticides, their labels, safe use, and what to do in an emergency.	www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/factmenu.htm www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/dept/factshts/factspanish.htm (en español)
Using Pesticides Safely —fact sheets for consumers	www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/safely.htm Contact: (415) 947-8704
Citizen's Guide to Pest Control and Pesticide Safety	www.epa.gov/oppfead1/Publications/Cit_Guide/citguide.pdf Contact: (415) 947-8704
National Pesticide Information Center —objective, science-based information about pesticides and pesticide-related topics	www.npic.orst.edu Contact: (800) 858-7378

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“We must take special pains to connect with those who have been historically underrepresented in EPA decision making, including the disenfranchised in our cities and rural areas, communities of color, native Americans, people disproportionately impacted by pollution, and small businesses, cities and towns working to meet their environmental responsibilities. . . [T]hey deserve an EPA with an open mind, a big heart and a willingness to listen . . . As we meet these challenges, we must be sensitive to the burdens pollution has placed on vulnerable subpopulations, including children, the elderly, the poor and all others who are at particular risk to threats to health and the environment. We must seek their full partnership in the greater aim of identifying and eliminating the sources of pollution in their neighborhoods, schools and homes.”

—Lisa Jackson, U.S. EPA Administrator
Memo to EPA Employees, January 23, 2009

EJ and Air Pollution: Best Practices in Collaboration, Tools, and Resources —handouts and presentation materials from the September 2007 meeting	www.epa.gov/air/ej/conf2007.html Contact: Ingrid Ward, (919) 541-0300
Environmental Justice Resources from EPA's Office of Air and Radiation	www.epa.gov/air/ej/ Contact: Tom Link, (919) 541-5456
Community Health Air Pollution Information System (CHAPIS) —an Internet-based mapping tool that allows you to look at a map to view sources of air pollution.	www.arb.ca.gov/ch/chapis1/chapis1.htm Contact: (866) 397-5462
Strategies for Addressing Asthma within a Coordinated School Health Program	www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/Asthma/strategies.htm Contact: Barbara Spark, (415) 947-4189
Managing Asthma in the School Environment	www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/managingasthma.html Contact: Barbara Spark, (415) 947-4189
Resources for Addressing Asthma in Schools	www.cdc.gov/HealthyYouth/Asthma/pdf/pubs-links.pdf Contact: Barbara Spark, (415) 947-4189
Collision Repair Campaign —a campaign to address health threats by drastically reducing auto body repair shop emissions at the national level.	www.epa.gov/air/toxicair/community/collision.html

California Department of Toxic Substance Control Environmental Justice Community Outreach —fact sheets in English and Spanish	www.dtsc.ca.gov/GetInvolved/upload/EJ_Community_Outreach.pdf (English) www.dtsc.ca.gov/GetInvolved/upload/EJ_FactSheet_Span.pdf (en español)
EPA's Brownfields and Land Revitalization Program —working to clean up and redevelop potentially contaminated lands, making it easier for such lands to become vital, functioning parts of their communities.	www.epa.gov/brownfields
Air Quality Resources	
Let's Clear the Air —A Public Participation Guide to Air Quality Decision Making in California	www.arb.ca.gov/ch/public_participation_guide.pdf www.arb.ca.gov/ch/spanish_docs/ppg_spanish.pdf (en español) Contact: (866) 397-5462
California Air Resources Board's (CARB) community health program —tools to better understand the air we breathe and what CARB is doing to reduce air pollution.	www.arb.ca.gov/ch/ch.htm www.arb.ca.gov/ch/español.htm (en español) Contact: (866) 397-5462
Air Quality and Land Use Handbook: A Community Health Perspective	www.arb.ca.gov/ch/handbook.pdf Contact: (866) 397-5462
EPA's Plain English Guide to the Clean Air Act —a summary covering some important provisions of the law.	www.epa.gov/air/caa/peg/

Minority and low-income communities are often disproportionately exposed to environmental harm and risks. EPA has programs and projects to protect these communities from adverse effects on human health and the environment. The Agency is committed to the fair treatment of these communities. This includes the opportunity to participate meaningfully in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. This participation requires access to the wide variety of resources available from EPA.

In light of this commitment, EPA's Pacific Southwest Regional Office has

developed this Resource Guide as a tool for individuals, non-governmental organizations, community groups, and local officials. The goal is to provide information and access to EPA's funding sources, training opportunities, and technical and program assistance. The guide highlights recent successes in communities affected by environmental injustices and references some of the tools these communities have used to achieve results.

This publication will also help organizations, agencies, and academics who work with Environmental Justice (EJ) communities to recognize opportunities to help their constituents.



Successes and Highlights

EPA is committed to working in partnership with EJ communities to protect public health and the environment, to build capacity for long-term community-based leadership, and to learn new ways to support EJ. In addition to the lists of resources in this document, these stories provide examples of what we can accomplish together. We hope these examples can stimulate dialogue about future opportunities to collaborate.

Collaboratives

Solutions to EJ problems often require action by many different parties, including the diverse resources that other government agencies have to offer. EPA has supported community-based efforts to bring key partners together, using inclusive processes to agree on priorities and take action. In addition to reducing exposure to environmental burdens, these collaboratives enable communities to develop powerful leadership that can have positive benefits for years to come.

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

EPA supports community-based leaders through funding from programs such as EJ grants, Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE), Indoor Air (Open Airways, Tools for Schools), Brownfields (assessment, training, and cleanup), and others. The Agency has distributed over \$31 million in EJ grants alone nationwide since the program began.

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance

EJ communities and the agencies that serve them often have less access to technical resources that could help them. EPA can provide information and cleanup support to reduce people's exposure to pollution and toxics, and to help affected communities have meaningful involvement in decision making.

Enforcement

EPA's enforcement programs may use EJ-related demographic information to target its inspections in areas where EJ communities could be most heavily affected by pollution and toxics.

Grant and Funding Tools

Grants.gov—find and apply for federal government grants.

www.grants.gov

Contact Center: (800) 518-4726

U.S. EPA Grants—funding opportunities, information on how to apply, new recipient training, and more.

www.epa.gov/ogd/

Grants and Interagency Agreements Program:
(202) 564-5315

**U.S. EPA Region 9
Requests for Proposals**

www.epa.gov/region09/funding/rfps.html

**Environmental Justice
Grants**

www.epa.gov/oecaerth/environmentaljustice/grants

**West Coast Collaborative
Diesel Emissions
Reductions**—Current funding opportunities

www.westcoastdiesel.org/grants.htm

Toxics and Hazardous Waste Resources

**Technical Assistance
Services for Communities
(TASC)**—a program to provide educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites regulated by the Superfund and Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) programs.

www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tasc

Contact: Luis Garcia-Bakarich, (415) 972-3237
garcia-bakarich.luis@epa.gov

**EPA's Toxics Release
Inventory**—information on toxic chemical releases and waste management activities reported annually by certain industries

www.epa.gov/tri

Contact: Nancy Levin, (415) 972-3848
levin.nancy@epa.gov

Tools and Resources

Environmental Justice Materials	
Environmental Justice Small Grants: Emerging Tools for Local Problem-Solving —a snapshot of 71 small grants awarded	www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/grants/ej_smgrants_emerging_tools_2nd_edition.pdf Contact: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, (800) 962-6215
EPA's Environmental Justice Biennial Reports and Project Reports	www.epa.gov/compliance/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html Contact: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, (800) 962-6215
A Citizen's Guide to Using Federal Environmental Laws to Secure Environmental Justice	To purchase a copy, visit www.elistore.org/ A limited number of free copies are available by calling Sharon Murray, EPA, (415) 947-4250
Environmental Justice: The Power of Partnerships —The Collaborative Problem-Solving Model at Work in Spartanburg, South Carolina (A DVD Documentary)	To obtain a copy, visit www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/ejcps-dvd.html Contact: EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, (800) 962-6215
Communities and Environmental Laws (DVD)	To order a copy, call (800) 490-9198 or go to www.epa.gov/ncepi/ordering.htm (Search for EPA Publication # 300C04001)
Working With Lawyers: A Guide for Community Residents and Environmental Justice Activists	To download or order a free copy in English or Spanish, visit: www.elistore.org
Community Guide to EPA's Voluntary Programs	www.epa.gov/care/library/guide_vol_progs_2008.pdf Contact: Mike Bandrowski, (415) 947-4194

Collaboratives

West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative

THE COMMUNITY: West Oakland, California, is a low-income community of 25,000 people, and approximately 90% are people of color. Since recovering from the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, the community has been on a trajectory of redevelopment. Freeways entirely surround the four-square mile community, which is adjacent to the Port of Oakland, the fourth largest container port in the United States. Traffic from the port is projected to substantially increase by 2020, with commensurate increases in diesel emissions. Asthma rates here are already the highest in the county. Despite the economic, environmental, and social challenges, the community has a culture of involvement and activism.

THE COLLABORATION: West Oakland is collaborating with EPA in several capacities to improve outdoor and indoor air quality and reduce future environ-



Margaret Gordon, local EJ leader and Collaborative co-chair, is the first-ever environmental health expert and neighboring community member to sit on the Port Commission. She said that based on her experience in the collaborative with EPA and other agencies, "I can help the commission understand these agencies' concerns so that the commission can meet these environmental and health standards."

mental risk. In 2005, the community, by way of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), along with EPA, launched the West Oakland Toxic Reduction Collaborative (WOTRC) to reduce residents' exposure to toxics from diesel truck pollution, land use, brown-fields hazardous waste sites, and ports.

The collaborative, EPA Region 9's EJ Program, and 18 community organizations have also worked in partnership to create the Healthy Homes/Indoor Air



Port of Oakland

Successes and Highlights

Collaboratives, cont.

(HHIA) group. The group used a comprehensive healthy homes checklist to train 15 community members, who inspected 95 of the community's homes. It also trained 60 local residents, planners, public health officials, and others to incorporate health concerns in land use planning.

THE RESULTS: The collaborative's efforts have been instrumental in gaining a commitment from the Port of Oakland to reduce risk from port-related diesel pollutants by 85% by 2020 and in supporting cleanup of the fleet of 2000 heavy duty trucks serving the port. The HHIA group's in-home inspections helped families reduce sources of lead and indoor air pollution. As a result of the land use planning training, four local developers agreed to work with the partners to develop Health Impact Assessments for their projects, which led to voluntary efforts to improve indoor air quality, use green building practices, and hire local workers.

THE RESOURCES: The collaborative's successes have built long-term capacity, enabling the group to leverage approximately \$400,000 in new grants from the San Francisco Foundation and EPA's EJ Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) and **Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)** (page 23) programs.

Torres Martinez : Contaminated Valley

In 2006, students from the Desert Mirage High School in Coachella Valley produced the documentary film Contaminated Valley, and a public service announcement on the dangers of burning pesticide-treated grape stakes, a common practice on the Torres Martinez Reservation. The students received EPA Region 9's Environmental Leadership Award because they raised awareness about the health and environmental dangers of illegally burning and dumping garbage.

Torres Martinez Collaborative

THE COMMUNITY: The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian Community encompasses approximately 24,000 acres of the Coachella Valley in California's eastern Riverside County and northern Imperial County. Approximately 12,000 residents live on the reservation, including approximately 250 tribal members. The community's proximity to illegal dumps, and exposure to toxins released by frequent dump fires, has severely affected the health of many residents.

THE COLLABORATION: Twenty-five federal, state, and local agencies, the Torres Martinez Tribal Government, and nonprofit organizations have come together to form the Torres Martinez Solid Waste

Targeted Grants to Reduce Childhood Lead Poisoning	Wetlands Protection Grants
To conduct activities designed to reduce childhood lead poisoning in vulnerable populations.	To assist state, tribal and local government wetlands protection efforts under Section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act. Funds can be used to develop new wetlands protection programs or refine existing protection programs. Funds cannot be used to fund operational support of wetland programs.
State, local governments, US commonwealth and territorial governments; federally-recognized tribes and tribal consortia, nonprofit organizations, private and state-controlled institutions of higher learning, and nonprofit organizations having 501(c)(3) status.	State and tribal agencies, local governments, and conservation districts.
\$25,000–\$100,000	Varies
David Tomsovic U.S. EPA Region 9 Toxics Office	Suzanne Marr U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division
(415) 972-3858 tomsovic.david@epa.gov	(415) 972-3468 marr.suzanne@epa.gov
www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/grantmap.htm	www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/grantguidelines

Funding Sources for Communities

GRANT PROGRAM	Source Reduction Assistance	Superfund Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs)
PURPOSE	To support source reduction and/or pollution prevention projects that will provide an overall benefit to the environment by preventing pollutants at the source.	To enable communities affected by a site on the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) to obtain technical assistance in interpreting information regarding the site.
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	States, U.S. territories, federally-recognized tribes, local governments, independent school district governments, state-controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofits having a 501(c)(3) status, and private institutions of higher education.	Groups must be located near or affected by a site that is either proposed for or on the National Priorities List. Groups must incorporate as nonprofit organizations.
AWARD AMOUNT	Typically \$25,000–\$75,000	Up to \$50,000 initially; in the case of complex sites, additional funds may be available
CONTACT PERSON & EPA OFFICE/ DIVISION	John Katz U.S. EPA Region 9 Pollution Prevention Team	Dana Barton U.S. EPA Region 9 Superfund Division
CONTACT INFORMATION	(415) 972-3283 katz.john@epa.gov	(415) 972-3245 barton.dana@epa.gov
WEBSITE	www.epa.gov/oppt/p2home/pubs/grants	www.epa.gov/superfund/community/tag

Collaborative, with the goal of cleaning up and preventing illegal dumping on the reservation in Thermal, California.

THE RESULTS: Since its inception in April, 2006, the collaborative has closed all of the 27 major dumps and successfully prevented the creation of new dumps on the reservation. Dump fires have been eliminated. The collaborative has also cleaned up more than 20 of the original dumps and prevented additional dumping by preventing vehicle access to the sites.

EPA has succeeded in cleaning up a 25-acre dumpsite, removing 100 tons of pesticide-treated grape stakes dumped 200 yards from a school, and completing enforcement agreements with two trailer park operators for solid waste violations. The companies paid over \$12,000 in penalties and agreed to provide community-wide cleanup events, implement a solid waste management program, and distribute fact sheets to all households in the trailer parks informing

them of how and where to dispose of wastes.

The collaborative's Outreach Taskforce distributed more than 500 posters and flyers promoting proper recycling and waste disposal habits to cities, stores, growers, haulers and landscapers in the Coachella Valley. Members of the taskforce participated in a Trashbusters community-wide cleanup event in October, 2007.

THE RESOURCES: The collaborative funded these successes by leveraging \$2 million from the California Integrated Solid Waste Management Board (www.ciwmb.ca.gov/grants or (916) 341-6000). The collaborative has also initiated **targeted brownfields assessments** (page 23) to facilitate productive reuse of former dump sites.



Road in Torres Martinez Reservation before cleanup.



Road in Torres Martinez Reservation after cleanup.

Successes and Highlights

Grants and Cooperative Agreements

Reducing Toxics in Pacoima, CA through EPA Grants

THE COMMUNITY: Pacoima, in the north-east section of California's San Fernando Valley, is a Los Angeles community with a mostly Latino population. Residents are affected by pollution from freeways, a railroad line, an airport, and more than 300 industrial facilities.

THE RESOURCES: Pacoima added 243 homes to its newly created Lead-Free Homes registry and enlisted 205 residents to identify and reduce local toxics with the support of an Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem Solving grant from EPA. The grant recipient, Pacoima Beautiful, partnered with and received aid from Los Angeles Neighborhood Housing Services to conduct lead paint remediation at 18 homes.

With a **Level I Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) grant** (page 23), Pacoima Beautiful convened over 320 community residents, partners, and stakeholders to review data and information on toxic sources gathered in the community. As a result, the community secured a **Level II CARE grant** (page 23) for \$300,000 to address two of the identified community priorities: small pollution sources in a targeted area of Pacoima and diesel emissions from trucks and school buses throughout the community



"Through programs that provide education, advocacy and local leadership, our aim is to improve the lives of the residents of Pacoima."
—Nury Martinez, Executive Director, Pacoima Beautiful

THE RESULTS: Pacoima anticipates significant health improvements through reduced emissions, reduced resource use, and increased use of sustainable products. The community will achieve these environmental and health improvements by implementing environmental Best Management Practices and providing additional education about toxics and risk mitigation.

For more information, see www.pacoimabeautiful.org, 11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Suite 1, Pacoima, California 91331. Phone: (818) 899-2454.

Pollution Prevention Incentives (PPIS) for States/Tribes	Solid Waste Assistance Grants/Tribal Solid Waste Grants (Resource Conservation)
To build and support state pollution prevention (P2) capabilities and to test, at the state level, innovative pollution prevention approaches and methodologies.	To fund cooperative agreements that promote recycling, solid waste reduction, and energy conservation through source reduction, product stewardship, reuse and composting, market development and job creation, education and outreach, or the procurement of postconsumer recycled content products.
State agencies, federally-recognized tribes, territories and possessions. States are encouraged to form partnerships with other P2 providers.	States, tribes, territories, multi-state/tribal organizations, universities, local governments and not-for-profit organizations.
Up to \$200,000 per grant	\$30,000–\$60,000 in cooperative agreement funds
Jessica Counts-Arnold U.S. EPA Region 9 Region 9 P2 Team	Saskia Van Gendt U.S. EPA Region 9 Solid Waste Team
(415) 972-3288 counts-arnold.jessica@epa.gov	(415) 947-4103 vangendt.saskia@epa.gov
www.epa.gov/oppt/p2home/pubs/grants/ppis/ppis.htm	www.epa.gov/region09/funding/rcra.html

Funding Sources for Communities

GRANT PROGRAM	Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Control	Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP)
PURPOSE	Established under Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act, these funds are for implementation of state nonpoint source pollution control programs. Each state “passes through” a portion of these funds to other entities for specific nonpoint source pollution management practices.	To provide funds for research, education, and demonstration to reduce risk and use of pesticides, in both agricultural and non-agricultural settings.
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	Public and private entities including nonprofits, local state governments, tribes, special districts, educational institutions, and government agencies. State water quality agencies distribute the applications.	States, territories, federally-recognized tribes and any agency or instrumentality of a state including state universities and some commodities groups.
AWARD AMOUNT	Variable. Past awards range from \$20,000 to \$300,000	Usually up to \$47,000 per project
CONTACT PERSON & EPA OFFICE/ DIVISION	Audrey Shileikis U.S. EPA Region 9 Water Division	Cindy Wire U.S. EPA Region 9 Agriculture Initiative
CONTACT INFORMATION	(415) 972-3459 shileikis.audrey@epa.gov	(415) 947-4242 wire.cindy@epa.gov
WEBSITE	www.epa.gov/owow/nps/cwact.html	www.epa.gov/opppdpd1/pesp/regional_grants.htm

Brownfields Job Training Grant: Long Beach, CA

THE COMMUNITY: Long Beach, California, is home to the second busiest port in the nation. With a 67% minority population, the city ranks sixth among large U.S. cities with the highest poverty rate. Since 2000, employment has steadily declined in the city’s population of 450,000. Major environmental health issues for the community include air pollution from port, soil and stormwater contamination, aquifer contamination from contaminated groundwater migration, and childhood asthma.

THE RESOURCES: For more than ten years, EPA’s Brownfields Job Training Program has transformed the lives of those living in brownfields communities. The program produces the skilled environmental technicians needed to clean up brownfields, creating jobs and spurring local economic development. To date, more than 4,000 trainees have graduated from the programs funded by EPA’s Brownfields Job Training grants.

The City of Long Beach’s Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Alliance was awarded a \$200,000 **Brownfields Job Training Grant** (page 23) in 2007. The city plans to train approximately 200 low-income residents from Brownfields-impacted communities in 10 sessions. Each ten-week session combines two weeks of community outreach, in-

take and assessment; five weeks of Brownfields occupational skills training and mentoring; and two weeks of job placement strategies.

“The program was the bridge for me to grow and realize the dreams of becoming successful can come true... This was the place for me. I got out of the problem and I became part of the solution.”

**—Louis James,
Long Beach community member**

The five weeks of Brownfields occupational skills training and mentoring includes certificated training in OSHA 30, First Aid/CPR, asbestos abatement, lead abatement, a refinery safety overview, and Hazardous Waste Worker Protection and Emergency Response. In addition, trainees will also receive soft skills and career development workshops.

THE RESULTS: The city plans to place approximately 70% of participants who

Successes and Highlights

Grants and Cooperative Agreements, cont.

complete the six certifications in full-time jobs. The Alliance provides follow-up services to ensure that trainees remain on the job for at least nine months after they are hired. As of September 2008, approximately 132 participants had completed training and 57 had obtained employment with an average salary of \$13.50 per hour.

Reducing Exposure to Toxics in Southern Arizona

THE COMMUNITY: In the U.S., the border with Mexico includes nine of the poorest counties in the nation. The region is characterized by little rainfall and extreme temperatures—the border between the states of Arizona and Sonora, Mexico, receives only 3 inches of rainfall per year and temperatures climb to 113°F. Rapid population growth and industrialization have created lasting environmental degradation and human health problems.

THE RESOURCES: Community Assist of Southern Arizona (CASA) and the Sonora Environmental Research Institute, Inc. (SERI) partner with neighborhoods that are under economic, environmental, and disproportionate health stress to promote a better understanding of environmental health risks and the ways to reduce them. Their promotora program trains women to assist families in evaluating environmental risks to their chil-

dren and to make informed choices to improve their health. They build neighborhood capacity one-by-one as they knock on doors. Active promotoras can continue on an educational track to receive a Certification in Public Health at the local community college.

In 2006, the organizations received a **Level II Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Cooperative Agreement** (page 23). More recently, they have received **funding from EPA's Pollution Prevention program** (page 27), the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and in-kind services and support from 22 different partners.

THE RESULTS: CASA and SERI have trained 50 promotoras who engage in all aspects of developing action plans to reduce toxics in their communities. In the long term, the program aims to strengthen the community's ability to make informed environmental health choices and to participate in long-term, sustainable solutions. It will track the community's reduction of toxic emissions and the reduction of toxic compounds replaced by less toxic solutions.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Small Grants	Indoor Air Quality Tools for School Program: Asthma Management Training
To provide financial assistance to eligible community groups and nonprofit tribal organizations to work on projects that address environmental justice issues.	To reduce school occupants' exposure to indoor air pollution and to aid in asthma management.
501(c)(3) non-profit organizations; certain other nonprofit organizations; cities, townships, or county governments; federally recognized Native American tribal governments. Eligible applicant must demonstrate that it has worked directly with, or provided services to, the affected community (see fact sheet for more details: epa.gov/oecaerth/resources/publications/ej/factsheets/fact-sheet-ej-small-grants-4-08.pdf)	School districts or groups of districts; community based organizations or coalitions, voluntary organizations and other nonprofit organizations; colleges, universities or other institutions of higher education; state, tribal, county, city or local health departments.
\$20,000	Up to \$50,000
Karen Henry U.S. EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice Team	Shelly Rosenblum U.S. EPA Region 9 Air Division
(415) 972-3844 henry.karen@epa.gov	(415) 947-4193 rosenblum.shelly@epa.gov
www.epa.gov/oecaerth/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html	www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/

Funding Sources for Communities

GRANT PROGRAM	Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring (CSATAM)	Environmental Education (EE)
PURPOSE	To support projects of one to three year durations that are designed to assist state, local and tribal communities in identifying air toxics sources and assessing health risks.	To provide financial support for projects that design, demonstrate or disseminate environmental education practices, methods or techniques.
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	Air pollution control agencies, as defined in section 302(b) of the Clean Air Act, that are also eligible to receive grants under section 105 of the Clean Air Act.	Local, tribal, or state education agencies, colleges and universities, nonprofit organizations, state environmental agencies, and non-commercial educational broadcasting agencies.
AWARD AMOUNT	\$25K–\$750K total, depending on the scope of project	\$4,000–\$50,000
CONTACT PERSON & EPA OFFICE/ DIVISION	Meredith Kurpius U.S. EPA Region 9 Air Division	Sharon Jang U.S. EPA Region 9 Office of Public Affairs
CONTACT INFORMATION	(415) 947-4534	(415) 947-4252 jang.sharon@epa.gov
WEBSITE	www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/20072008_CSATAM.html	www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html

Environmental Justice Small Grant —Oakland, California's Chinatown

THE COMMUNITY: Just a few blocks from Oakland's Chinatown neighborhood lies a 60-acre area of port-owned waterfront land known as "Oak to 9th." It had been contaminated by a century of industrial pollution. In 2004, developers proposed to remediate the property and build Oakland's largest housing development since World War II—a project that would potentially create significant health risks to nearby residents during construction.

THE RESOURCES: EPA gave the Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN) an **EJ Small Grant** (page 25) to build the community's leadership, capacity, and political effectiveness to address the immediate and long-term environmental and public health risks posed by the redevelopment. The community identified affordable housing and jobs as the key areas to improve the local environment and the residents' health.

THE RESULTS: APEN built a coalition of hundreds of working class people to influence the developer and the Oakland City Council to agree to build 465 units of housing affordable to families earning \$25,000 to \$50,000 (for a family of 4)—the highest number and percentage of extremely/very-low income units in a private project in Oakland in more than a decade. At least 232 units will be two or



Community members meet to discuss the "Oak to 9th" redevelopment project.

three bedrooms to accommodate families. The project places 300 residents into new career-path construction jobs and allocates \$1.65 million to construction training programs that specifically address barriers faced by immigrants and formerly incarcerated people who are reentering the workforce.

For more information, see www.apen4ej.org, 310 8th Street, Suite 309, Oakland, CA 94607, Phone: (510) 834-8920, Fax: (510) 834-8926

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance

Shaping State Environmental Justice Policy in Hawaii

In September 2007, EPA's Pacific Southwest Region EJ Program participated in three community meetings to get input on EJ in Hawaii. Nearly 100 people attended the sessions in Oahu (Waianae), Maui, and Kauai. Participants raised EJ issues including impacts from the Superferry, dust control from construction sites, water rights, landfills, military activities, lack of understanding of native Hawaiian land management practices, cancer, and respiratory health impacts.

The program provided four rounds of EJ training to state officials in the spring of 2006. Later that year, Governor Lingle signed the State of Hawaii's first

Environmental Justice Bill, Act 294, to hire an EJ Coordinator. Using input from interviews and community meetings, the EJ coordinator developed a definition of EJ for Hawaii, created guidelines to incorporate EJ into the state's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process, and recommended to the legislature other actions to address EJ issues.

African American Hair Salon Roundtables

Many hair and nail salons in California use chemicals that may endanger the health of thousands of workers, their children, and customers. Salon workers often report respiratory problems and headaches, and their risk of cancer,



Kauai community meeting to receive input on the State's of Hawaii's Environmental Justice Initiative.

GRANT PROGRAM	Brownfields Grants	Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)
PURPOSE	To provide funding for communities and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together to assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse Brownfields sites.	To provide support to help communities form collaborative partnerships, develop a comprehensive understanding of many sources of risk from toxics and environmental pollutants, set priorities, and identify and carry out projects to reduce risks through collaborative action at the local level.
ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS	States, cities, towns, counties, U.S. territories, Indian tribes and nonprofit organizations	Local, nonprofit organizations, federally-recognized tribal governments, Native American organizations, private nonprofit organizations, quasi-public nonprofit organizations (both interstate and intrastate), local governments, colleges and universities.
AWARD AMOUNT	Between \$200,000 and \$1,000,000 depending on type of grant	Two funding levels: Level 1: \$75,000–\$100,000 Level 2: \$150,000–\$300,000
CONTACT PERSON & EPA OFFICE/ DIVISION	Debbie Schechter U.S. EPA Region 9 Brownfields Team	Mike Bandrowski U.S. EPA Region 9 CARE Program
CONTACT INFORMATION	(415) 972-3093 schechter.debbie@epa.gov	(415) 947-4194 bandrowski.mike@epa.gov
WEBSITE	www.epa.gov/brownfields/pilot.htm	www.epa.gov/care/

Successes and Highlights

Enforcement, cont.

encounter when approaching and interviewing migrant farmworkers.

Because county inspectors do most fieldworker inspections, the EPA's Pacific Southwest Region Pesticides Office worked with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to organize a similar training for county inspectors in Spring 2009.

Targeting Enforcement in "At-Risk" Communities

In 2008, inspectors with EPA Region 9's Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Program began a pilot program to target their enforcement efforts in communities that suffer disproportionate environmental burdens. The inspectors identified areas with high levels of air and water pollution, and areas closest to industrial-use land. This environmental data was overlaid with demographic information about the community, such as income levels, health indicators, access to health care, level of education, and access to community resources.

Then, they began targeting their inspections at 245 metal plating facilities in the most impacted geographic areas in Gardena, Pacoima, and Vernon communities of Los Angeles County. Metal plating shops have a historically high rate of environmental violations, enforcement, and cleanup actions. The RCRA Enforcement Program's targeted in-

spections have identified an even higher rate of significant non-compliance.

The Agency is currently pursuing formal enforcement actions at facilities where there was significant non-compliance, and is continuing their inspection targeting in 2009. By using environmental data to target their inspections, the RCRA Enforcement Program was able to maximize their limited resources to protect human health and the environment in communities with the greatest need.

birth defects and asthma is similar to that of industrial workers. Studies indicate that some hair products used by African-Americans contain estrogenic chemicals that can cause premature puberty in girls and may also be linked to breast cancer.

With a \$78,000 **Pollution Prevention Grant** (page 27), the Environmental Finance Center 9 (EFC9) worked with EPA to determine how to reduce exposure to and use of toxic chemicals by African-American hair salon owners, employees, and clients in California. To accomplish this, EFC9 and EPA conducted site visits at four salons and convened a multi-stakeholder roundtable to discuss the science, regulations and business practices that affect the ethnic hair care industry.

The research showed that it was even more difficult to obtain information about the health risks of ingredients in ethnic hair products than in other types of cosmetics. EFC9 used the roundtables to discuss safer alternatives and ways to share their findings with other organizations, salons, and communities that are exposed to toxic chemicals in salon products.

The information from the research and roundtables will be used to develop a "Healthy Hair Care Guide" to identify and promote safer and healthier hair styles and techniques. It will serve as



Reducing exposure to toxic chemicals at hair salons.

an outreach tool that salons can use to help salon owners, stylists, and clients learn about potential health risks and ways to reduce their exposure to harmful chemicals.

Halaco Site Cleanup

THE SITE: During its 40 years of operation, the Halaco Engineering Company produced over 700,000 cubic yards of waste from its metal recycling operation, contaminating the surrounding soil, wetlands, and water in Oxnard, California. Approximately half a mile north of the site lies the predominantly Latino, working class neighborhoods of Southwinds and Cypress in South Oxnard. Because of its dilapidated structures, the contaminated site is dangerous to enter, but

Successes and Highlights

Capacity Building & Technical Assistance, cont.

even after its addition to the Superfund National Priorities List in 2006, trespassing remains a problem.

Because the residents are ethnically diverse and speak several different languages, EPA has issued warnings in both Spanish and Mixtec. U.S. EPA also worked with the Oxnard nonprofit Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) and the local volunteer youth community service organization City Corps, to distribute flyers door-to-door. The organizations help explain the risks to residents whose legal status or work schedules may prevent them from attending a federally-sponsored community meeting.

THE RESOURCES: To help the community understand the technical issues surrounding ongoing site work, EPA will award a **Technical Assistance Grant (TAG)** (page 28).

THE RESULTS: EPA has responded to community concerns at the Halaco site. With the help of the Oxnard Police Department, access to the abandoned facility has been greatly reduced. The Agency has also minimized exposure by consolidating and stabilizing the majority of the Site's waste, while working to better understand the risks presented by the contamination.



A pesticide inspector interviews a Spanish-speaking farmworker.

tion with 24-hour access to water from 26% to over 60%. With the implementation of the new requirements beginning in 2009, even more significant improvements are expected to move the island closer to achieving a safe, reliable drinking water supply for all residents.

Breaking Language and Culture Barriers in Pesticide Use

Interviewing field workers is one of the most effective ways a pesticide inspector can determine whether a farm is complying with the Worker Protection Standard, a federal regulation that aims to reduce the risks of occupational ex-

posure to pesticides. The agricultural workforce in California is approximately 70% Latino, and many workers have limited English-speaking skills, or no English at all.

In April 2008, EPA, state and tribal inspectors attended training on how to open communication channels with Latino farmworkers. This “Breaking Barriers” course taught inspectors how to interview workers in Spanish, using a flip chart with images of decontamination supplies, personal protective equipment, and other protections required by law. Trainees also learned about overcoming cultural barriers they may

Successes and Highlights

Enforcement, cont.

THE ACTIONS: Enforcement has played a major role in the U.S. Pacific territories. In 2002, EPA developed an enforcement order that required many specific improvements to Guam's critical drinking water and wastewater infrastructure. The order also required Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) to make management improvements, including specific qualifications for management personnel and the development of a water and wastewater master plan. EPA has vigorously enforced the order—issuing penalties when necessary—while continuing technical and financial assistance to GWA to help meet the requirements.

In the CNMI, EPA developed two enforcement orders to improve water and wastewater systems and prevent oil spills in 2008. The first order requires the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC) to undertake major improvements to Saipan's drinking water and wastewater systems, including ensuring compliance with discharge permit limits and preventing sewer overflows. A second order requires that CUC comply with oil spill prevention and preparedness rules and ensures that CUC take steps to prevent future oil spills into ocean waters. EPA continues to give technical assistance and grant funding to CUC to help fix these problems.

Worker Safety Enforcement

Farmworker complaints about pesticide exposure symptoms triggered an investigation at Vector Tobacco's research facility in Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii. Inspectors found that the company failed to provide its workers and pesticide handlers with required protective equipment, pesticide information, decontamination supplies, safety training, and notification that pesticides had been applied. The company paid fines totaling \$65,040 for the alleged violations.

THE RESULTS: Since the court order on Guam, GWA has eliminated boil-water notices for four years in a row and has reduced sewage spills by 99.9% compared to pre-enforcement levels. GWA made new physical improvements to its system, including finishing a \$15 million rehabilitation of Guam's two largest wastewater plants and completing the rehabilitation of a major booster pump station and water transmission line. As a result, Guam's water is now the safest it has been in decades.

In the CNMI, CUC and the Commonwealth's Water Task Force are implementing improvements to Saipan's drinking water and wastewater systems. Actions since 2006 on Saipan have increased the proportion of the popula-



Lower left and above: Cleaning up petroleum contamination at a former Underground Storage Tank site, in Tuba City, Arizona.

Leaking Underground Storage Tanks in Indian Country

THE SITE: The Davis Chevrolet Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) site in Tuba City, Arizona, affects both the Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation. The former owner abandoned the site, and the UST system lacked the proper controls to ensure tank integrity and safety. In the late 1990's, petroleum leaked into the ground and has contaminated soil in an area approximately 1000 feet away, in the direction of the local springs. The Hopi Tribe uses these springs for ceremonies.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE: After assessing the site, removing approximately 2,000 cubic yards of contaminated soil and evaluating treatment alternatives,

EPA and the tribes chose a clean up approach. In 2008, they installed 12 extraction wells to remove the petroleum contamination from the shallow groundwater. They expect to finish the full treatment system in 2009.

THE RESULTS: In addition to protecting public health, the environment, and culturally important springs, this cleanup will provide much-needed access to food and other goods to isolated Navajo, Hopi, and other residents. A new supermarket, department store, hotel and other retail properties will save residents 70 miles of driving to the next nearest similar services and provide lodging for visitors.

Successes and Highlights

Enforcement

Fighting Leptospirosis in American Samoa

THE COMMUNITY: In the South Pacific, the U.S. Territory of American Samoa faces significant public health challenges, including lack of wastewater treatment and disposal, and consumption of fish contaminated with heavy metals and other toxins found in their main harbor. The per capita income of American Samoa is only \$4,357, by far the lowest in the U.S. About 17% of residents have tested positive for Leptospirosis, a serious bacterial disease associated with improperly managed pig waste,

and five people died of the disease in 2003-2004.

THE ACTIONS: EPA funded American Samoa's "Team Lepto," who conducted 223 inspections of small pig farms, many of which were located on streams for easy disposal of waste. The team closed 117 non-compliant pig farms and has worked with 23 owners to bring their pig farms into compliance with local regulations. The team has inventoried and mapped every pig farm and pig in American Samoa.

THE RESULTS: "Team Lepto" has significantly reduced the pig waste discharged



Outbreaks of leptospirosis are usually caused by exposure to water contaminated with the waste of infected animals, such as pigs.



EPA provided nearly \$3 million in grant funding to construct this one million gallon water storage tank and improve the distribution system in the Kannat Tabla area on the island of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The new tank is part of a number of system improvements that will eventually lead to 24-hour water on Saipan.

into the territory's waters, protecting health and nearby coral reefs. In one watershed, the team reduced bacterial contamination by over 90%. No deaths have been attributed to the disease in 2007 or 2008.

Improving Water Infrastructure in the Pacific Islands

THE COMMUNITY: The U.S. Pacific Island territories of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)—home to more than 250,000 people—face significant envi-

ronmental and public health challenges, particularly related to water resources. In CNMI, the island of Saipan is the only municipality of its size in the United States without 24-hour water delivery. For almost half of Saipan's residents, water flows through their pipes only a few hours per day. Until recently, the island of Guam had some of the worst water problems in the U.S., with more than 500 million gallons of raw sewage spills and nearly constant boil-water notices between 1999 and 2002.