



The Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

# 2021 IMPACT REPORT

*Building Bridges, Breaking Barriers.*





## A YEAR IN REVIEW



*2021 was a year filled with trials, tribulations, and triumph.*

Despite the hurdles brought on by the pandemic and the unease that stems from the political, social, and economical divide, we made breakthroughs in community outreach and engagement. Solidifying our presence with our base and establishing roots in communities we weren't actively involved in. Making a deliberate effort to bring together individuals to combat; the excessive development of destructive projects, toxic pollution plaguing our communities, and industry friendly policy and planning decisions.

We've established relationships with local, national, and international media outlets. Giving us a platform to advocate for environmental justice and broadcast our efforts to a much broader audience. Utilizing the intersection of advocacy, art, and journalism to bring awareness to environmental injustices, highlight the resilience that springs from them, and plant the seeds for community empowerment.

We collaborated and supported partner organizations by amplifying efforts for Environmental Justice, sustainability, Covid relief, and immigration reform. Giving us an opportunity to strengthen ties and set the foundation for future solidarity and success.

**CCAIEJ is powered by the community and its needs.**



## INDIRECT SOURCES RULE



Beginning almost five years ago, CCAEJ along with partner organizations convened to lobby the South Coast Air Quality Management District to pass a Warehouse Indirect Sources Rule that would allocate additional resources to develop infrastructure for cleaning up our air. This would have a direct impact on many families in the Inland Region because many of our communities are overburdened with warehouses, which are often sited next to homes, schools, shopping centers.

The warehouse ISR, applied to warehouses of 100,000 square feet would incentivize electrification by creating fees for warehouses that use diesel trucks, was a huge step forward in holding warehouses accountable for pollution near communities of color. CCAEJ held community

meetings, had one on ones with community members to support with public testimony and advocacy to uplift community stories from the region. We engaged in the rulemaking with our policy team and met with leaders and decision makers to get the most stringent rule passed.



## COMMUNITY ACTION TEAMS



Integral to the fight for environmental justice is the inclusion of community members and empowering community members to fight for themselves. CAT teams are communities from different areas in the region, incorporated or unincorporated. CAT teams are made up of community leaders who consistently engage in the movement and usually organize in their respective communities with the support of CCAEJ. We worked with frontline members to create community action teams in Moreno Valley, Bloomington, and Perris. Mobilizing on-the-ground resources for communities burdened by toxic pollution and fossil fuels.



## WORLD LOGISTICS CENTER



We were part of a coalition of environmental justice and conservation groups that worked to reduce the World Logistics Center's harmful impacts for close to 10 years, and the groups have filed three lawsuits filed since 2015 over the project. Residents of the Inland Empire region where the project is located breathe some of the most polluted air in the United States.

- We settled a lawsuit which had been filed against the World Logistics Center and City of Moreno Valley.
- Advance electrification of logistics equipment from trucks to forklifts, including providing funds to aid in purchasing 680 new electric trucks, which must be used within the state so local residents receive air quality relief. The settlement provides up to \$12.1 million for heavy-duty electric trucks alone.
- Deliver a thousand \$1,000 EV grants for Moreno Valley residents to purchase electric cars, in addition to other zero-emission mobility projects in a new program worth \$1.1 million, and install 1,080 EV chargers for passenger vehicles on site.
- Increase Moreno Valley's solar power by installing additional rooftop solar on warehouse facilities.
- Provide up to \$5 million in air filtration and noise mitigation solutions for the most impacted homes near the facility.
- Require berms, screens, walls and large setbacks around buildings to reduce the warehouse complex's impacts on nearby communities.

## IQ AIR CAMPAIGN



As the result of an agreement between developers and the City of Jurupa Valley, we supported the distribution of 285 Air Purification units to community members. Reaching them by canvassing neighborhoods, mailing letters, making phone calls, and holding delivery meetings at CCAEJ headquarters.

We worked with community members and IQAir to educate community members about the benefits of air filtration systems and the impact of pollution on frontline communities like theirs. With support from the city and IQAir we were able to beneficially impact these local residents.



## ART IN ACTION



CCAIEJ collaborated with local Inland Valley artist Akailah Byrd Greene to create a mural that celebrated our community and the fight for environmental justice in the region. As the Inland Valley Region has a rich history of organizing and environmental justice it was imperative that we centered community not just in the mural itself but in the process of painting as well, hosting community painting days where members came to the location of the mural and painted in key pieces of the mural!

We used this art creating moment to further discussions about community solidarity and the fight against environmental racism and how we can create better, more resilient communities. It was a powerful project that highlighted mutual solidarity and the power of art to bring communities together.





## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE YOUTH SUMMIT



We held our first Environmental Justice Youth Summit, a 2 day event where we were able to connect and learn from our Youth. We discussed air quality issues within the region, collaborated with Senator Connie Leyvas Office for a Civics presentation, spoke about the foundation and intersectionality of Environmental Justice, and highlighted the vital role community members play in shaping the policy and development decisions that are made. Our Youth Summit was an opportunity to strengthen community mobilization and forge relationships that'll lift our communities and CCAIEJ to success.





## AIR QUALITY



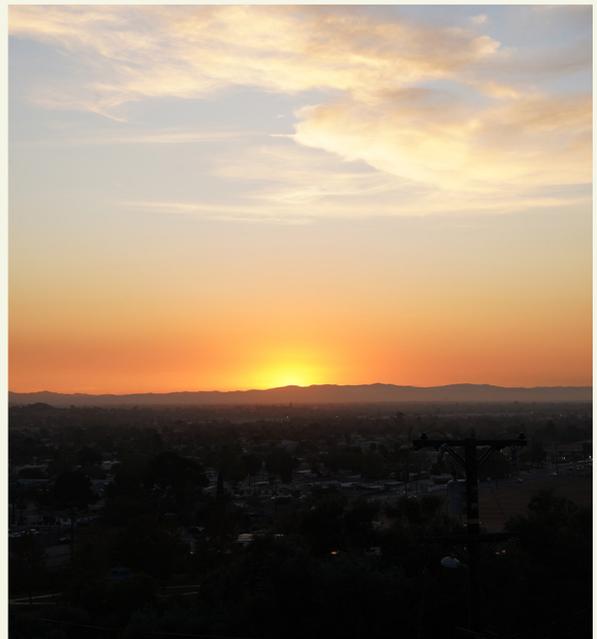
Over the past decade, our keynote issue has been advocating for clean air in the inland valley region, especially as our communities have continued to be plagued by the logistics industry. The movement of goods from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to Riverside and San Bernardino and then to the rest of the country comes with a pollution footprint of smog and gas that severely impacts the health and livelihoods of our residents. Community members who live near industrial developments are undergoing severe impacts from those sources of pollution. Through community outreach we have found cancer clusters near areas such as the BNSF Railyard, spiking asthma rates, and multiple reported nosebleeds specifically from children who reside next to industry. The community bears the consequences of the freight industry, gas plants, and cumulative sources of pollution. It is urgent for families who live near and around these zones that the industry and elected officials take swift action to provide green alternatives and reduce the harm that is continuing to happen in their communities. The fight for clean air quality standards is a fight for the public health and safety of all of our community and is the central environmental justice issue for our organization. Below are some areas where we engaged in the fight for clean air



## CARB



We engaged in a program, funded through the AB 617 Community Air Grants, in which 45 community participants will follow and understand personalized air monitoring data that can help advocate for policy, initiatives, and resiliency planning. The program also contains a curriculum which focuses on air quality, climate change, resilience, and any other topics the community would like to engage in. This program enabled us to continue to create knowledge in a community centered way that enables participants from all walks of life to contribute to studying their region.



## WAREHOUSE MORATORIUMS



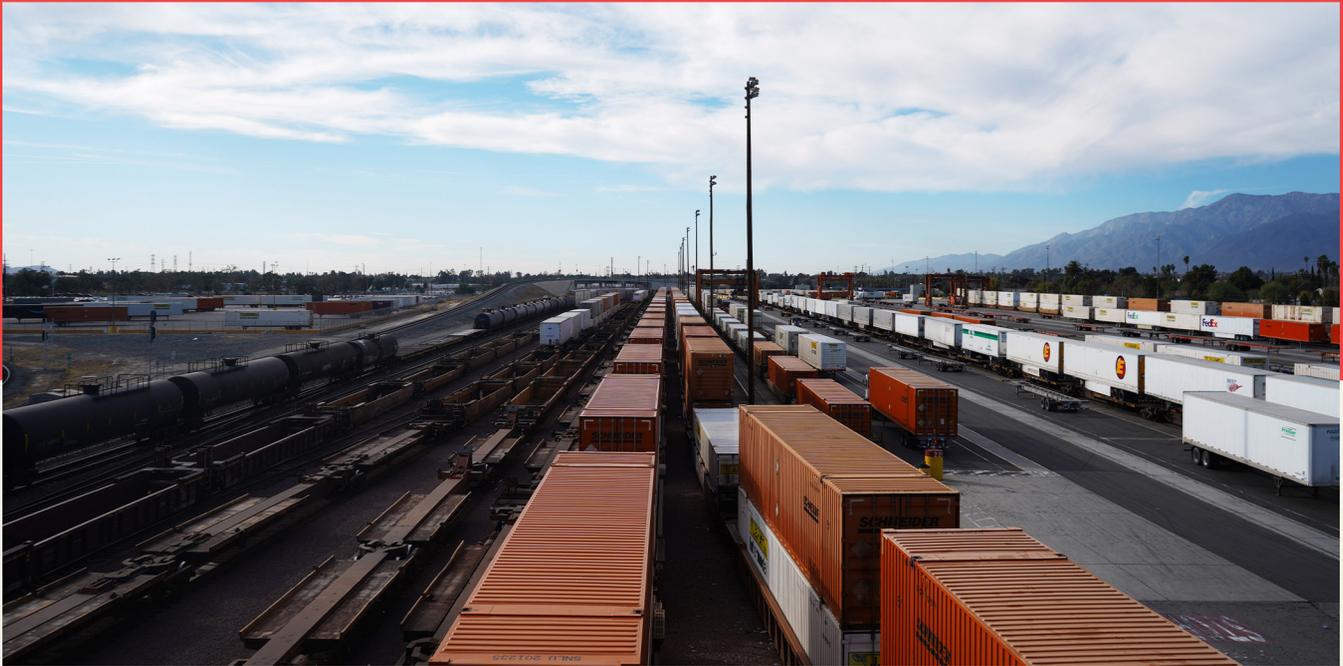
In May 2021, CCAEJ supported the City of Colton as their proposed warehouse moratorium was coming to a vote. As a result of overwhelming community engagement and our staff's assistance, the moratorium passed almost unanimously and a comprehensive study continues through March 2022 to address the public health and safety impacts, emphasizing the declining air quality and deteriorated infrastructure.

City of San Bernardino proposed a warehouse moratorium in mid 2021, with much public input and staff engagement, the council was able to pass the moratorium but unfortunately was one vote short of overriding the Mayor's veto. Council will be proposing a moratorium again in 2022. CCAEJ will monitor the updates.

Throughout the region CCAEJ staff and community members have requested many cities in both Riverside and San Bernardino Counties to bring forth warehouse moratoriums to address the health, safety, air quality and infrastructure impacts due to influx of warehousing and truck traffic. We will continue that advocacy in 2022.



## JUST TRANSITION



As an environmental justice organization we have been focussed heavily on transitioning California's energy sector from fossil fuels to clean energy in a way that prioritizes the needs of disadvantaged communities. Last year, we engaged with the California Public Utilities Commission to continue to advocate for our communities. Along with coalition allies Regenerate, we collaborated to lobby the CPUC in the Extreme Weather Proceeding and Integrated Resources Plan to stop any new fossil fuel generation within our energy portfolio and successfully opened the door for 11,500 megawatts of clean energy.



## TRANSPORTATION



For years, the transportation options and infrastructure of the Inland region have failed residents, particularly those who do not have access to a car. This has stretched across multiple facets of society, from a lack of quality public transportation to a lack of safe bikeways and walkways to inefficient and inequitable projects to widen freeways and other roads which have still failed to slake the thirst of car supremacy in the region. This lack of transportation options intersects with many other major concerns of CCAEJ and our community base including air quality, infrastructure, job access, and safety. Transportation planning and provision has a huge impact on the livelihood and wellbeing of community members that we support, but Inland agencies continue to remain stuck in the 20th Century, pushing for failed fixes while our communities languish and suffer, desperately seeking other options.

Access to transportation options like public transportation is a key component of breathable and walkable urban infrastructure that creates sustainable communities that are free from the burden of fossil fuels.

## TRANSPORTATION POLICY



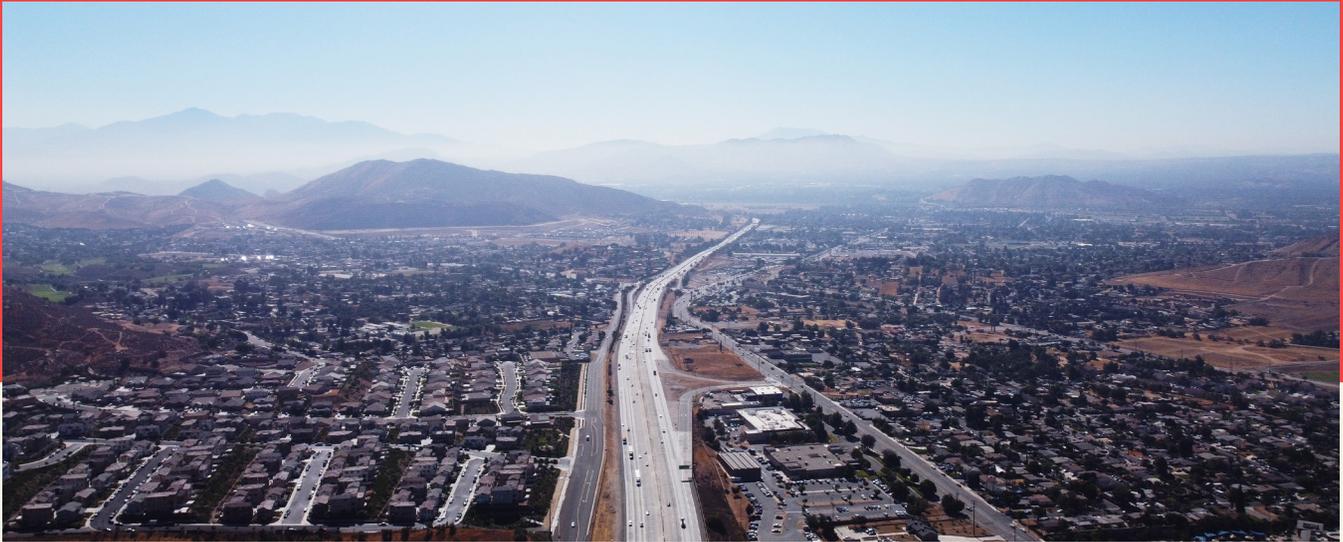
**CAPTI** - CCAEJ has been part of a team of organizations engaging with the *California State Transportation Agency* as they developed the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) to help guide the plan in a direction of equity and climate justice. The plan as adopted directs resources into projects that further those goals as they can exist within the limits of various funding sources and acts of legislation.

**Advanced Clean Trucks** - CCAEJ has been engaged with a coalition of activists working with CARB as they develop their Advanced Clean Trucks rule to bring zero-emissions trucks to our communities as soon as possible. We also work hard to speak out against false solutions and to acknowledge the ongoing exploitation of truck drivers to ensure that they are not stuck with paying the costs of cleaning up the transportation industry of big corporations.

**Advanced Clean Fleets** - CCAEJ has been part of a coalition of partners engaging with CARB as they develop their Clean Fleets rule to bring zero-emissions trucking to the sectors of the economy which are not addressed by the Advanced Clean Trucks rule. Our engagement is focusing on ensuring that the rule is as strong as possible to ensure that relief for disadvantaged communities can arrive as soon as possible.

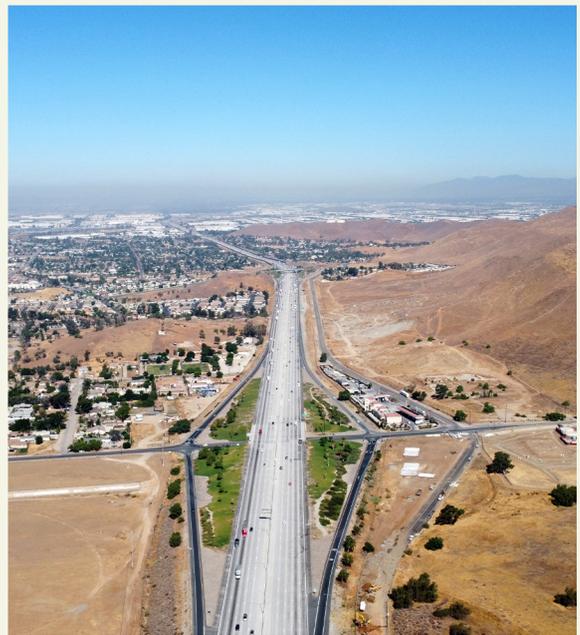


## TRANSPORTATION POLICY



**Advanced Clean Cars II** - CCAIEJ is part of a coalition of partners engaging with CARB as they develop the second Advanced Clean Cars plan that seeks to bring zero-emissions vehicles to the market and fulfill the Governor's mandate of no fossil fuels by 2035.

**Scoping Plan** - CCAIEJ is involved with a coalition of partners spearheaded by CEJA which are engaging with CARB staff and EJAC members to ensure that the Scoping Plan is developed in a manner that advances a just transition and addresses the concerns which continue to be raised by frontline communities over issues including a phase-out of fossil fuels, an end to polluting industries in their backyards, and an increased provision of clean energy generation infrastructure.



## SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL



**Fontana** - CCAEJ collaborated with Community Streets to ensure Fontana is following their safe routes to school plans and address the truck route crisis that city residents are currently facing. Worked in partnership with the South Fontana Concerned Citizens Coalition and hosted 4 community meetings to obtain Fontana residents input, which was then presented during public comments at Fontana City Council meetings.

**Ambassador Program** - CCAEJ assisted SCAG in training local community members in San Bernardino County to be leaders and be able to speak up to advocate for improvements in the traffic environment where they live, work, and play. Ambassadors were all responsible for putting together their own “activation” which would showcase things they learned throughout the program. Activations included, but were not limited to, community events, online engagements, open streets events, temporary traffic changes, and more.



## HOUSING



In 2020, the Inland Empire saw the biggest leaps in buying and rent prices for renting across the state. Because of that, CCAEJ engaged in the fight to combat housing inequity in the region. Integral to the fight for environmental justice is fighting for safe and equitable housing for disenfranchised communities. We reject planning that gentrifies and fails to address critical issues that impact residents' quality of life. As the pandemic has shown, housing is crucial for safe and sustainable places for communities to thrive: precarious housing situations severely contributed to the spread of COVID-19 as individuals sought temporary shelter from families and friends.





## HOUSING

*Continued*

### Housing Element in Riverside to assure funding allocations for affordable housing and close the housing inequities for communities of color.

In 2021, every city across California was mandated to prepare a Housing Element plan under their city or county General Plan. CCAEJ in collaboration with Inland Equity Partnership, engaged in the cities of *San Bernardino, Rialto, Fontana, Jurupa Valley, Riverside, Colton, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties* to ensure an inclusive and transparent process where the community was able to provide input. CCAEJ was successful in hosting over 5 community meetings with over 10 residents in each, submitted coalition letters, mobilized the community to submit public comments and was able to provide input to the respective cities. We further worked with statewide coalitions such as *CEJA* and *Housing Now* to advance statewide housing initiatives and programs.

Co Hosted Rent and Mortgage relief workshops with partners and legislators for community members to apply for state, county, and local COVID relief funds.

### General Plan Updates

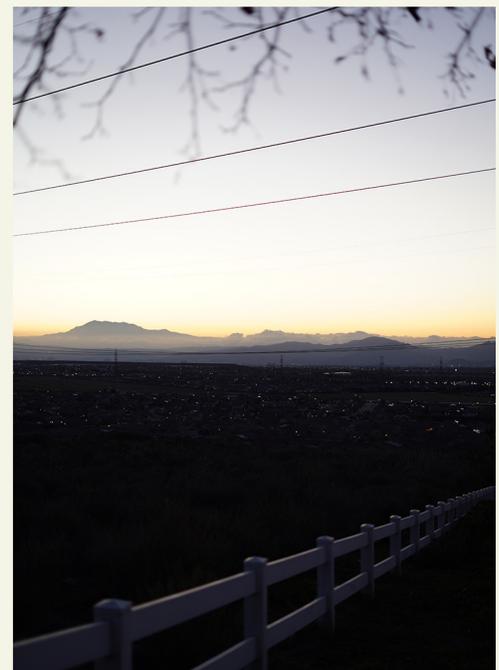
Although the Housing Element is part of an agency's General Plan, the general plan is not required to be updated nearly as frequently. In 2021, several cities around the region started or completed updates to their General Plan. In *Moreno Valley*, CCAEJ engaged with residents to advocate for solutions to limit the pollution and onslaught of warehouses in the community. Meanwhile, the *City of San Bernardino* began work on their first General Plan update in nearly two decades. As this work continues, CCAEJ remains engaged with the community to connect residents to the process and advocate for solutions faced including pollution, the onslaught of warehouses, the housing crisis, traffic safety, and the nature and ability of providing input itself.

## REDISTRICTING



Every 10 years, a redistricting process begins after a census is conducted. This process is integral to the creation of political districts and the majorities that represent those communities. Since the nation's founding, this process has inevitably left out communities of color, especially Black communities, from this process so as to dilute their representation. This year, Social justice organizations mobilize communities to engage in the process for equitable districts and stop right wing attempts to gerrymander districts to allow for minority white leadership in communities with diverse majorities.

We joined the *Brown and Black Redistricting Alliance* with over 10 partner organizations and over 30 community members across *Riverside and San Bernardino Counties*. Co-leading monthly meetings that eventually turned into weekly meetings, collecting over 45 community of interest testimonies and engaging with community and partners in state and county testimonies. We further provided crucial information to demographers to create state and county maps and presented at both State and County levels. In 2022 CCAEJ will continue local, city/school board level campaigns.



## MEDIA COVERAGE



Due to variant surges throughout the year, we maintained a digital infrastructure and presence that we began to create during the initial lockdowns in March of 2020. As we continued to innovate our strategy and navigate the ever changing landscape, we made a conscious pivot to video and social media content that engaged audiences. We increased our presence on Instagram and Youtube to engage younger audiences and create mobilizations around the impacts of climate change on the youth.



Finding new avenues to highlight the shared ongoing struggles of our communities, we created series' like our *Toxic Tours/Road to Resilience* and community highlight: A series that dissects the environmental, economical, and social issues plaguing our communities and documents the collaborative efforts and resiliency that springs from it.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

*Continued*

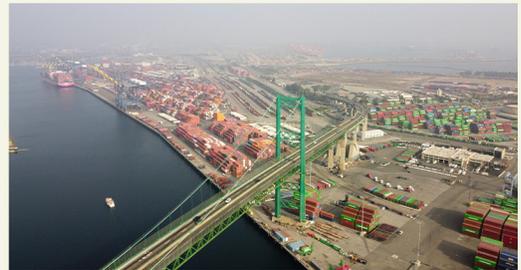
### Bloomington Community Tour

In opposition to a project that would displace communities, we coordinated with Bloomington residents and decision makers to highlight the issues plaguing the community.



### Black Friday Ports Video

As supply chain issues roiled the nation causing widespread shortages, we fought to highlight the direct impact of port operations on frontline communities and the destructive impact that the logistics infrastructure has on pollution and public health.



### Frontline Stories

In an effort to empower our community members, we periodically spoke and documented their grievances.



### Let's Clear the Air Podcast

Using our increased presence to talk about local issues from an Environmental Justice perspective, we hosted a podcast devoted to news, analysis and highlighting local voices.



*News coverage in the LA Times, New York Times, Washington Post, and other media outlets to highlight the growing environmental justice movement in the region.*

**The New York Times**

**UC RIVERSIDE** News

**JDSUPRA**<sup>®</sup>

**Los Angeles Times**

Fontana  
**Herald News**

**THE VERGE**

**The Washington Post**

**CAL MATTERS**

## COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

### Street Vendor Campaign with ICIJ

- Supported ICIJ's Street Vendor Campaign in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties by attending city council meetings, outreaching to street vendors, and strategizing on new policy that will ensure the rights of street vendors in those regions.
- Engaged entrepreneurs who have outdoor businesses in the change of policies in the counties to assure vendor safety.



### Shutdown Adelanto Coalition with ICIJ

- Member of the Shut Down Adelanto Coalition to work toward providing resources, media coverage, and community support.



### Cadiz Water Project with National Parks Conservation Association

- Attended community meetings and provided testimony on behalf of the CCAEJ, to prevent the process of selling toxic water to cities through the Three Water Valley District.
- The water contains chromium 6, which is incredibly harmful to the community.



## COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

*Continued*

### MayDay

- Organized by Inland Coalition for Inland Justice and organizations such as IELC, we attended a solidarity protest on May Day to rally for environmental, labor and immigrant justice as intersecting nexuses for collective liberation and highlighted the need for solidarities across issue areas in the region, “Protecting & Empowering Our Communities: A Threat to One is a Threat to All.”



### Earthday

- We joined Overflow Farms, CAIR California, Riverside Mutual Aid Network, and Gracie Torres of the Western Municipal Water District to support community self sustainability, individuals experiencing homelessness, pandemic relief, and environmental justice.



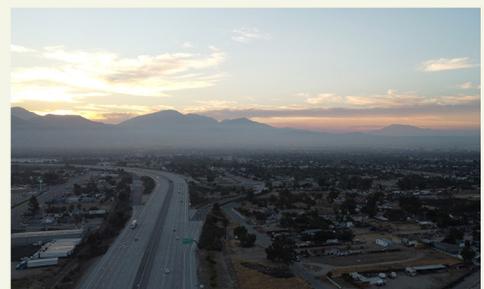
### Muhammad Ali day of service food drive

- Partnered with Council on American Islamic Relations, Los Angeles to create a food drive for community members in Riverside. We brought volunteers to help give food out.



### IEIYC

- Participated in Know Your Rights workshops
- Collaborated on presentations for community members around health, public safety, and environmental issues.





## COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

*Continued*

### CEJA

- Regenerate “Energy Justice Community Roundtable”
- Civic Engagement Committee

### Brown and Black redistricting alliance + MALDEF

- We worked with social justice organizations and local officials to engage in the redistricting process to highlight communities of interest and facilitate participation from community members in disadvantaged communities. We worked to create an inclusive atmosphere to push for participatory decision making to create more representative districts.

### Immigrant Defender for the unaccompanied minors of Pomona

- Volunteered with Immigrant Defenders at the Pomona Fairplex after an influx of unaccompanied minors caused the state to open a new facility. Managed intake forms from newly arrived minors.

### LULAC 3190

- Had community come out to Board of Education meetings



## FUTURE OF ORGANIZATION



For over 40 years CCAEJ has served Riverside and San Bernardino counties, advocating for the health and safety of frontline communities. Our history has shown that by empowering our community members and building an environment that prioritizes all of our collective well being, we can fight against the legacies of environmental racism that continue to impact us.

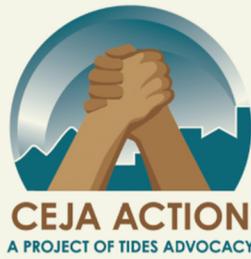
As we reflect on this history, we affirm that we will continue to fight for an environment that is free of toxins and pollution, that creates ample opportunities for people of all walks of life to safely live work and play. We will continue to fight for environmental justice standards through local organizing and build the capacities of those directly impacted by the impacts of climate change.





# FUNDERS

Satterberg foundation



Cotyledon Fund



Unitarian Universalist  
Veatch Program at Shelter Rock  
**Human. Kind.**

