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Environmental Justice Achievement Award

State or Local Government



Negocio Verde Environmental Justice Task Force



Susan Hahn at the Negocio Verde Environmental Justice Task Force-sponsored UST workshop for owners/operators.

EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to the County of San Diego, a member of the Negocio Verde Environmental Justice Task Force for its efforts to address environmental justice in the Barrio Logan community of San Diego and the cities of National City and Chula Vista.

The Task Force is composed of members of San Diego County government departments, local businesses, community representatives, and community colleagues. It meets bi-monthly. Since 2003, the Task Force has provided environmental compliance and pollution prevention assistance training to over 6,500 people, the majority in communities with environmental justice concerns. The Task Force has provided 11 bilingual (English/Spanish) training workgroups. Spanish translation of the informational materials and onsite instantaneous translation proved crucial to many of the community members and minority-owned businesses.

The County of San Diego led the Task Force's participation in workshops that were multi-media, multi-cultural, and multi-dimensional. The Task Force's biggest success has been the non-enforcement interaction between regulators, small businesses, and the community. The majority of the small businesses located in communities challenged with environmental justice concerns are fearful of government agencies. The workshops were provided in English and Spanish, via dual PowerPoint presentations projected onto side-by-side screens and audio translation using radio devices. The inclusion of community college students, many of whom live in the affected communities, also proved an asset to the workshops. The success of the Task Force has been shared at several San Diego area and state conferences.

