

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

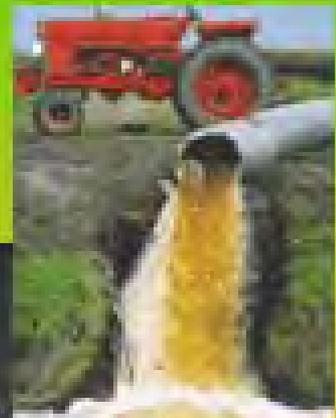
San Joaquin Valley Cumulative Health Impacts Project (SJV CHIP)



Sarah Sharpe and Mike Wells
Fresno Metro Ministry

Environmental Injustice

- Many communities in SJV experience multiple sources of pollution
- People are getting sick, and dying

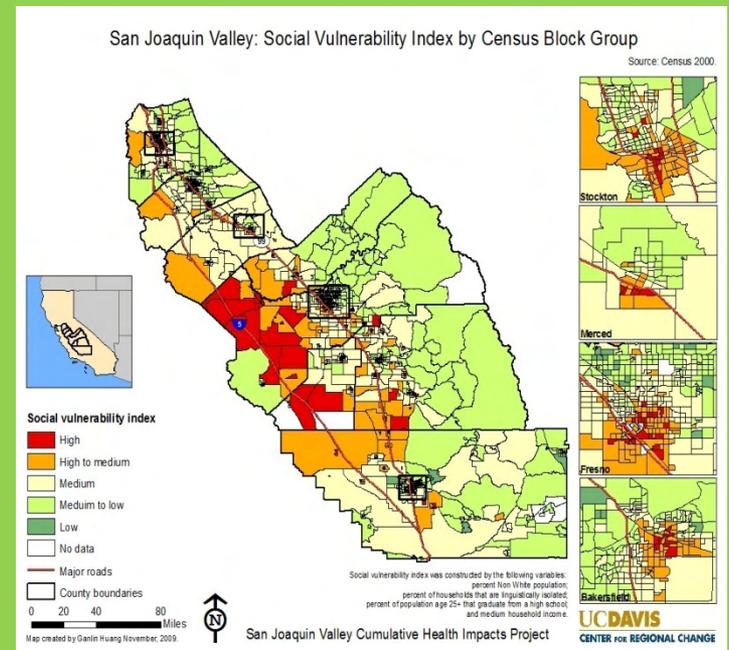


Our Inspiration

- Inspired by Dr. Manuel Pastor's "Still Toxic After All These Years" 2007 Report for *Bay Area Environmental Health Collaborative*
- Wanted our own data with policy recommendations, liked the methodology
- Invited Dr. Pastor to Fresno; his advice was to find local academics to partner with
- University of California Davis-Center for Regional Change and Environmental Justice Project

Why Mapping?

- Need documentation of problem (proof of what we already know)
- Build community capacity for advocacy (right tools)
- Visual aids=
effective advocacy tool
- UC Davis secured funding



SJV CHIP Collaborative

- Community groups, existing environmental justice coalitions, and academics gathered to address issue of Cumulative Health Impacts in SJV
- Secured funding to cover costs of engagement for planning phase(still looking for more)



Build capacity of local groups to work with academics

- Past experiences with non-local organizations leading research efforts/ acting as mediators
- How to find the right experts and secure their partnership
- Selecting product, process and methods
- Providing data and resources



Guidelines for Collaboration

- Act as a bridge with funders and resources when possible (non-compete agreement)
- Value communities speaking for themselves
- Allow community partners final product review, especially if they have been mentioned in report/study
- Appropriately compensate groups and individuals for advisory roles
- Whenever possible, increase capacity of existing community groups (i.e. train the trainers)
- And more...

Tools Needed

- Patience (community process is organic-sometimes slow)
- Trusting relationship with Academic institution- *establishing MOU and guidelines for collaboration helpful for building trust*
- \$\$\$- to cover costs of coordinating meetings, time and travel of community residents, FOOD, babysitting and translation
- At least one lead community group to partner/ facilitate community participation

Thank you!

Steering Committee member groups:

Fresno Metro Ministry

SJV Latino Environmental Advancement Policy Project

Medical Advocates for Healthy Air

Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment

Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

California Prison Moratorium Project

Californians for Pesticide Reform

California Rural Legal Assistance