San Joaquin Valley
Cumulative Health Impacts Project
(SJV CHIP)

Using maps to create change

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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