



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE UPDATE



Welcome to the spring edition of EPA Region 9's *Environmental Justice Update*. Starting with this issue, you'll find a section highlighting progress on selected commitments we made in our [EJ Action Plan for 2015](#). We highlight some of the ways we're using contract resources to help communities address their priorities. This is consistent with Administrator McCarthy's theme of [Making a Visible Difference in Communities](#), which calls for each of EPA's 10 regions to focus on a handful of communities to better coordinate our efforts through 2016. Our Agency's [strategic plan](#) makes a priority of ensuring that EPA's resources reach communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by pollution, economic distress, and other related challenges.

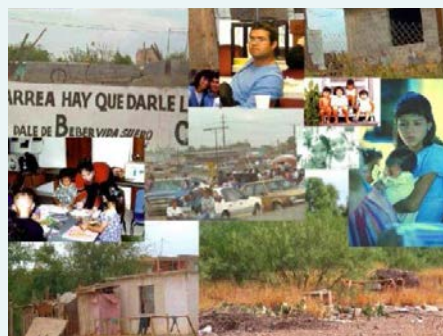


[Click to view an interactive map of MVD communities](#)

In Region 9, although we work with hundreds of communities every year, under this initiative we'll focus on American Samoa; the Gila River Indian Community in Arizona; Gilroy and Imperial County in California; and Las Vegas, Nevada. Check out the [clickable map](#) and watch this [video](#) of the Administrator to learn more.

NEJAC TO MEET IN SAN DIEGO IN MAY

[Registration](#) is now open for the **May 20 - 21** meeting of EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC). The meeting, in San Diego, will focus on goods movement, climate change and border issues. There will be a public comment period on May 20 on issues related to these and other topics. The NEJAC last met in Region 9 in 1999 in National City, Calif.



NEJAC's [Report](#) of the 1999 Roundtable

Registration is also open for the **April 22, 2015**, NEJAC Public Teleconference call, when three topics will be covered: EPA's Refinery and Clean Power rules and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Registration and the deadline for public comment close at 3 pm PST, on Monday, April 20. Pre-register [here](#).

EPA Region 9's 2015 EJ Action Plan Progress Highlight

The 2015 EJ Action Plan for EPA Region 9 was informed in part by input from a "[teach-in](#)" held in March 2014 where we heard about issues of importance to communities. The plan includes a number of commitments. Our *EJ Update* will regularly highlight progress towards selected commitments.

Our plan reflects some of the input we heard about supporting community priorities related to data and to community-driven problem-solving processes. IVAN (Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods) is one such model and EPA, along with many other government agencies, participate on a number of IVAN task forces in California.

IVAN started in Imperial County with [Comite Civico del Valle](#) and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control. EPA is working with Comite and their partners to collect input from government agency representatives to help develop performance measures for the six [IVAN](#) networks. Comite is also partnering with the [California Environmental Health Tracking Network](#) on the [Imperial County Community Air Monitoring Study](#), and our contractor will develop recommendations for the project team on how to display the data collected by the study.

A second effort is in response to open dumping in Fresno County, Calif., based on multiple reports of dumping documented through the [Fresno Environmental Reporting Network](#) (FERN). With input from FERN Task Force members and agency participants, our contractor is developing easy-to-understand materials to raise awareness about resources to both prevent and clean up open dumps.

Finally, we're working with [Global Community Monitor](#) and their partners to support the updating of the quality assurance project plan for citizen-collected environmental monitoring data so that it can be reviewed by EPA's quality assurance program.



KEEN TASK FORCE TOURS COMPOSTING PILOT PROJECT

The Bakersfield, Calif., municipal waste management and composting facility was the focus of a tour on March 16, 2015 for leaders of KEEN, the [Kern Environmental Enforcement Network](#) (part of the IVAN network), Kern County residents, and EPA representatives. Led by Kevin Barnes, the city's Solid Waste Director, the tour highlighted pilot practices that reduce emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs) by 98% and significantly reduce water use. Traditional practices rely on mixing the pile with a large machine (left-most photo above). In the pilot, the pile is left undisturbed with an organic filter layer on top of finished compost. New material to be composted is piled on top of solar-powered air blowers and then the whole pile is capped with at least six inches of finished compost which is occasionally watered by irrigation sprinklers.

The tour was a preview of the type of operations community members are hoping to see from Recology, which took over the Community Recycling & Resource Recovery Facility outside Lamont, in Kern County, in early March. Recology is introducing a new aeration method to reduce VOCs.

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT EJSCREEN?

Webinar For Community Organizations on May 7

EJSCREEN is EPA's screening tool for identifying geographic areas with potential environmental justice concerns. In advance of the public release later this year, we are offering webinars and outreach sessions to help the public better understand the tool and how EPA is using it. [Register](#) for an introductory online session, to be held on May 7, 2015, from 1pm to 2:30 pm PST. Contact [Chuck Swanson](#) or [Deldi Reyes](#) if you'd like a session for your organization and stay tuned for additional offerings.



EPA OFFERS COMMUNITY AIR MONITORING WEBINAR ON JULY 9

Live Webstream 6:00 am to 9:30 am



EPA is hosting a nationwide training webinar to share tools used to conduct citizen science projects involving [Next Generation Air Monitoring](#) (NGAM) technology and to educate interested groups and individuals on best practices for successful air monitoring projects. Register [here](#). Space is limited to 500 webinar registrants.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Georges Benjamin, M.D., Executive Director of the American Public Health Association, moderates a [five-part webinar series](#) on *Safeguarding Communities from Harmful Chemicals*, beginning with a webinar on **April 14, 2015**, focusing on the role of the Agency for Toxic Disease Registry (ATSDR). Register to learn more.

RSVP by April 15 for an in-person discussion with Professor Dorceta Taylor on the *State of Diversity in Environmental Organizations* at the EPA Region 9 Office at 75 Hawthorne Street

in San Francisco. Learn more [here](#).

[Register](#) by April 24th for the **May 13, 2015** training, *Healthy Homes for Community Health Workers*, a free one-day course designed for community health workers, also known as promotores, and community health and housing advocates, to be held in El Centro, Calif.

[Register](#) for the *National Health Impact Assessment Meeting*, to be held **June 16 to 18, 2015**, in Washington, D.C.

[Register](#) for *Equity Summit 2015*, to be held **October 27-29th**, in Los Angeles, Calif.

Hold the date of **November 21** for the 2015 Environmental Health Leadership Summit in Imperial County, Calif.

Did you miss the March 7 Silicon Valley Transportation Choices and Health Communities Summit organized by TransForm and their partners? Check out the [materials here](#).

GRANT AND GRANTEE NEWS

U.S. EPA announces the posting of the [Request for Applications](#) for the 2015 EPA *Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Fellowships for Graduate Environmental Study* with the goal of offering graduate fellowships for master's and doctoral level students in environmental fields of study. Subject to availability of funding and other considerations, EPA plans to award approximately 55 new fellowships in the fall of 2015. Master's level students may receive a maximum of two years of support (\$88,000). Doctoral students may be supported for a maximum of three years (\$132,000), usable over a period of five years.

Congratulations to [Urban Habitat](#) and partner [Public Advocates](#) on their receipt of one of [six grants](#) awarded nationally by the [Transportation Equity Caucus](#), co-chaired by The Leadership Conference Education Fund and PolicyLink. Partnering with Public Advocates, Urban Habitat will use their grant to convene a Transportation Justice Working Group to identify transportation policy, investment, and program priorities to inform and shape federal policy and advocacy.

Efforts to protect the community of nail salon workers from workplace hazards are featured in the latest [newsletter](#) from the American Public Health Association. [Asian Health Services](#), a past recipient of EPA Environmental Justice small grants, sponsors the [California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative](#), whose work is described in the newsletter.

JOBS

Check out the opening for a [Coalition Coordinator](#) at the [Environmental Justice Coalition for Water](#), a statewide coalition of grassroots groups and other organizations building a collective, community-based movement for democratic water allocation, management and policy in California.

The [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) is looking to hire a [Communications Manager](#) to help lift up the voice and vision of communities of color across California.

[Urban Habitat](#) is looking for a [Program Director of Training and Advocacy](#). Apply by April 30.

SIGN UP 

Join Our Mailing List

[About EPA Region 9's EJ Program](#)

[Sign up for EPA's EJ Blog](#)

[Sign up for EPA's EJ Listserv](#)

[Previous EJ Updates](#)

[Contact EPA Region 9's EJ Network](#)

STAY CONNECTED



Links to non-EPA websites are for informational purposes only and do not imply any endorsement or recommendation by EPA.