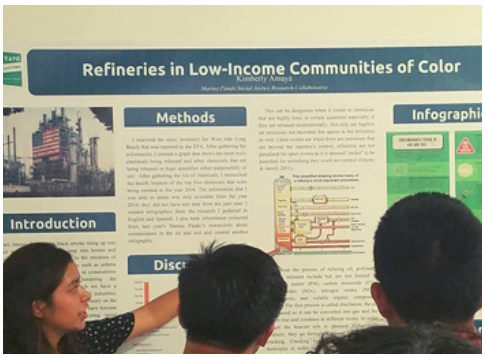

EAST YARD COMMUNITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ) is an environmental Health and Justice non-profit organization working towards a safe and healthy environment for communities that are disproportionately suffering the negative impacts of industrial pollution.

#WeAreJustTryingToBreathe

East Yard Communities For Environmental Justice

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EYCEJ CAMPAIGNS

COMMUNITY STABILITY

The current Lower LA River Revitalization Master Plan includes a "Community Stability Toolkit," which EYCEJ advocated for. The toolkit lists a number of policies, programs, and projects, which build community stability and mitigate gentrification and displacement across Lower LA River communities. EYCEJ has jumpstarted rent stabilization campaigns in all Southeast LA cities, which are disproportionately rent-burdened. We have consistently built capacity amongst membership to organize, do outreach, inform, do research, and advocate for community stability throughout SELA. In addition, EYCEJ hosts monthly tenant rights workshops, which engage participants in further leadership development and power building.

EXIDE

Exide owned and operated a lead-acid battery recycling factory in Vernon. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) issued Exide a permit under Title V of the Clean Air Act with limits on arsenic and lead emissions into the air, but findings show that Exide was emitting unacceptably high levels of lead and arsenic. After years of our members and staff engaging with AQMD and DTSC to clean up and shut down Exide, the Department of Justice announced the permanent shutdown of Exide on February 2015. Although this is a huge victory, we continue to work to address comprehensive and efficient cleanup of all properties and communities directly impacted.

EXTREME ENERGY EXTRACTION

EYCEJ has a subcommittee called the "Oil & Gas Team" that focuses on: 1) learning more about the status of various extreme energy extraction facilities in the region, 2) how it is affecting residents living near these facilities, and 3) how we can work towards shifting out of our extreme energy reliance into sustainable technologies.

EYCEJ CAMPAIGNS

East Yard Communities For Environmental Justice

GREEN ZONES

In order to improve the health and well being of residents and improve the local economy, EYCEJ together with the community helped shape a Green Zones policy for Commerce that included 4 pillars: Prevention, Reduction, Revitalization, and Reinvestment. Only 3 of those pillars were included. We are working to ensure that the City Council considers a zoning ordinance amendment to include the Prevention pillar and are working on Green Zones policies in Long Beach and East LA.

H2OURS: PEOPLE PROTECTING WATER

H20urs is a collaboration between Urban and Environmental Policy Institute (UEPI) at Occidental College and EYCEJ focusing on public drinking water quality. Members have gone through educational workshops to understand the complexities of our drinking water systems, trainings to learn how to accurately take water samples for testing, and how to take action through community sharing, engagement, and policy change. Members took a total of 30 water samples from public spaces in their respective neighborhoods including Long Beach, Lynwood, Commerce, and East Los Angeles. UEPI and EYCEJ created a report outlining members concerns and proposed solutions to work towards clean, safe drinking water.

I-710 CORRIDOR

The Community Alternative 7 (CA7) is a holistic I-710 corridor improvement project that meets the needs of residents while accommodating projected truck traffic along the corridor. The CA7 was developed by members of the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice (CEHAJ) as an alternative vision of how goods movement projects can protect community health, improve quality of life, improve air quality, and effectively and safely plan for the region's goods movement growth.

EYCEJ CAMPAIGNS

East Yard Communities For Environmental Justice

SCIG

The Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) is a toxic railyard project proposed to be built between Wilmington and West Long Beach that would threaten the health, safety, and quality of life of local residents, students, and workers. EYCEJ decided to go forward with litigation and filed suit after council members voted in favor the SCIG in May 2013.

ZERO WASTE

Waste is disproportionately sent to Black, Indigenous, people of color communities where landfills, incinerators, and transfer stations have been systematically located. Community members successfully defeated legislation that helped shut down an incinerator in Commerce. Long Beach residents continue to fight to shut down the incinerator in their community that contributes to air pollution negatively impacting their health and accelerating climate change. Instead of our current waste systems, communities are calling for zero waste systems that replace extractive industries by switching to responsible production where goods are reusable/refillable instead of single-use and by building decentralized, community-based solutions.

EYCEJ PROGRAMS

LA COSECHA COLECTIVA

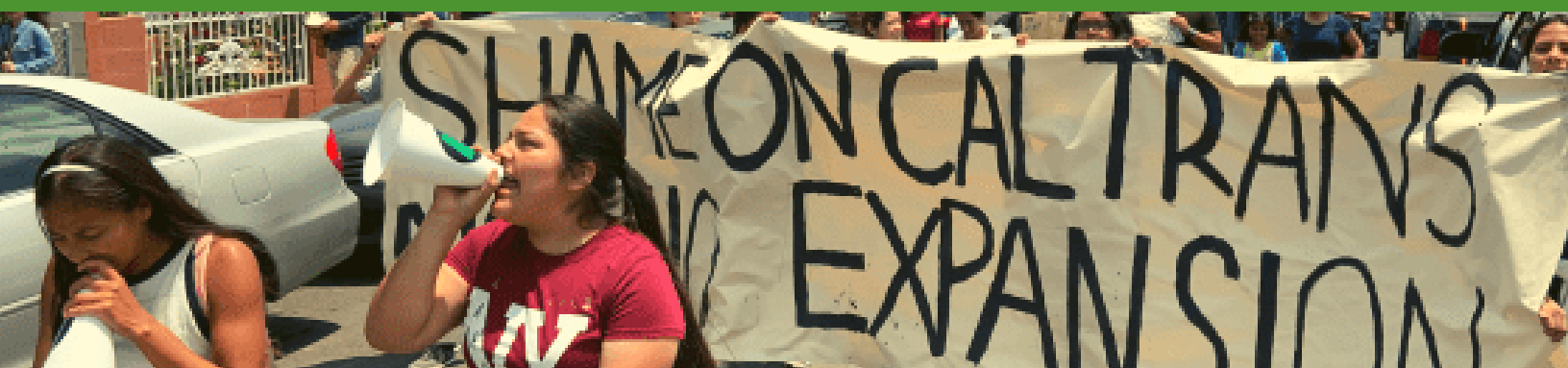
La Cosecha Colectiva promotes a local food system rooted in racial health equity, access to healthy food, and respect for growers, medicine, and healers in our community. EYCEJ members are taking community action to achieve a collective goal through a decentralized garden project to challenge the dependency of unnecessary global distribution of goods and produce by working towards food sovereignty as a real and sustainable solution.

MARINA PANDO SOCIAL JUSTICE RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE

The Marina Pando Social Justice Research Collaborative (MP-SJRC) is an opportunity for first generation undergraduate students of color to have a supportive environment in which to conduct social justice oriented research. MP-SJRC aims to provide students with an opportunity to consider research as part of a greater project of creating the knowledge that will build our communities up through critical insight and analysis.

RIDE ON ALL ROADS

Ride on All Roads (ROAR) is a bicycle program developed by the organization's youth leadership. ROAR focuses on activities that promote pedestrian and bicycle needs in the truck-dense I-710 corridor communities. Through advocacy and direct action, EYCEJ youth are promoting community heath and safety where they live, learn, work, and play.

YOUTH IN ACTION!

Youth in Action! provides a space for youth to become engaged in local environmental health and justice issues. Members learn about local efforts to create a healthier community while developing leadership skills, public speaking skills and facilitation skills.