



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

JAN 24 2011

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Bill Gallegos, Executive Director
Communities for a Better Environment
5610 Pacific Boulevard, Suite 203
Huntington Park, CA 90255

Ms. Nury Martinez, Executive Director
Pacoima Beautiful
11243 Glenoaks Blvd., Suite 1
Pacoima, CA 91331

Mr. Angelo Logan, Executive Director
East Yard Communities for EJ
2317 Atlantic Blvd,
City of Commerce, CA 90040

Mr. Jesse Marquez, Executive Director
Coalition for a Safe Environment
P.O. Box 1918
Wilmington, CA 90748

Mr. Leonardo Vilchis, Co-Director
Union De Vecinos
3622 E. Slauson Ave., Maywood, CA 90270

*Thanks for all
your great work
on Greenzones!*

Dear Bill, Angelo, Nury, Jesse and Leonardo:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts toward creating and supporting more sustainable solutions in environmental justice communities. I congratulate all of you and the LA Collaborative for Environmental Health and Justice on your significant progress in the Clean Up Green Up campaign, as described in your recent letter. In addition to responding to your letter, I also wanted to take this opportunity to reiterate my support for your efforts, and to make some specific commitments.

First, I remain fully committed to the "green zones" concept you highlight in your letter and which was presented to the Federal Regional Council last September in San Francisco. As you know this concept offers many opportunities for partnerships with EPA and the other federal agencies. In Region 9, we will also continue to look for funding opportunities in environmental justice communities. Pacoima Beautiful is a recipient of Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Level 1 and 2 grants, which total \$390,000, in addition to EJ small grants. We will also have the opportunity to support a CARE Level 1 grant to Union De Vecinos this year. In addition, we awarded over \$30 million in EPA Clean Diesel and ARRA funding to the Los Angeles area to reduce diesel emissions at ports and goods movement facilities.

I am further committed to a strong enforcement and compliance presence in EJ communities. This past year, EPA Region 9 completed inspections at more than 70 different facilities, including many petroleum and metal plating facilities located in disadvantaged communities. These inspections resulted in formal enforcement actions against 13 facilities which must invest over \$265,000 in environmental improvements and pay more than \$688,000 in penalties for violations of federal regulations. The enforcement actions at these facilities will keep over 15 thousand pounds of pollution per year out of these communities and prevent the

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potential of release of 80,000 gallons of oil into local water sources. We in Region 9 will continue to work with community-based organizations to coordinate and focus our inspections and enforcement. We will also continue our multi-agency partnership with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Air Resources Board working along the I-710 Corridor, and are looking to expanding this partnership to include other key agencies at the local, state and Federal level.

I also remain fully committed to EPA's initiative to develop a consistent screening approach for environmental justice as part of the EJ 2014 effort. The Region is actively engaged in this national effort and we greatly appreciate the research of Manuel Pastor, James Sadd and Rachel Morello-Frosch and their work to develop the EJ Screening Method.

Finally, I appreciate your invitation for EPA to participate in regular discussions of the Clean Up Green Up steering committee. I've asked Sheryl Bilbrey, Acting Associate Director for Environmental Justice and Children's Health, to serve as your point of contact to ensure the Region's participation in this effort. Sheryl can be reached at bilbrey.sheryl@epa.gov or (415) 972-3015.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to ensuring and advancing environmental protection for the numerous environmental justice communities throughout Southern California and for holding EPA and other agencies accountable in the work we do. I look forward to continuing to work with you toward our mutual progress.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld

cc: Manuel Pastor, University of CA, LA
James Sadd, Occidental College
Rachel Morello-Frosch, University of CA, Berkeley
Diane Takvorian, Executive Director, Environmental Health Coalition, CEJA
Antonio Diaz, Executive Director, People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Justice, PODER, CEJA
Roger Kim, Executive Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, CEJA
Penny Newman, Center for Community Action and EJ, CEJA
Caroline Ferrell, Executive Director, Center for Race, Poverty and the Environment, CEJA
Florence Gharibian, Department of Toxic Substances Control
Michelle Schultz-Wood, Air Resources Board, Mobile Sources Enforcement
Cynthia Marvin, ARB, Assistant Division Chief, Planning and Technical Support
Anupom (Pom Pom) Ganguli, SCAQMD, Assistant Deputy Exec Officer, Public Advisor
Herb Schultz, HHS, Chair, Federal Regional Council
Ophelia Basgal, HUD, Western Regional Director
Antonio Villaraigosa, Mayor of Los Angeles