Climate Change from the Streets
How Conflict and Collaboration Strengthen the Environmental Justice Movement

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Broadening Worldviews on *Climate Change*

Human Health and Community Well-being
Sometimes it is the people no one imagines anything of, who do the things that no one can imagine.

— Alan Turing (attributed)
California's Global Climate Leadership

Credit: Mendez (2018)
Policy Victories for Climate Justice

- **AB 32 (Núñez, 2006)** – required the Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, outreach in EJ communities, and that regulations not disproportionately impact EJ communities.

- **SB 535 (De León, 2012)/AB 1550 (Gomez, 2016)** – targeted investments to disadvantaged communities

- **AB 197 (E. Garcia, 2016)** – required ARB to consider the social cost of carbon and to prioritize direct emissions reductions
EJ Activists and Climate Change Policy

• The primary mitigation mechanism being used to fight climate change, carbon trading, does not mandate reductions at any specific facility or location;

• Leaves equity to chance and does not guarantee reductions in communities with the most pollution.
EJ Activists and Climate Change Policy (cont.)

• EJ should be part of climate change policy;

• EJ should not be left to chance or addressed later;

• The market should not make equity decisions, they should be planned and intentional (*Trickle-down Environmental Policy*).
Broader Policy Implications
• Measured in tons of CO₂ equivalent
• Scientific framing: detached expertise
• Cost-effectiveness
• Market-based solutions
• Geographically neutral
• Emphasis on mitigation

• Co-pollutants + public health + GHGs
• Contextual framing: local expertise
• Cost-effectiveness: Social equity
• Community-based solutions
• Multi-scalar
• Adaptation + mitigation

Source: Mendez (2020)
Climate Change from the Streets

Contextual climate governance

Climate change + Global ghg

Localized health + Co-pollutants

Health + Place

Transportation
Urban forestry
Affordable housing

Expert-lay engagement + Community-based solutions

Green jobs
Adaptation
Renewable energy

Multiscalar strategies + Social movements

Source: Mendez (2020)