

CBE, EJ groups win tentative ruling for alternative to unjust pollution trading

On January 24, 2011 a San Francisco Superior Court issued a tentative ruling that the California Air Resources Board failed to properly consider alternatives to a “cap and trade” program in the environmental impact report (EIR) for its scoping plan to implement AB 32, the California Climate Solutions Act. Cap and trade is a type of pollution trading that threatens to replace policies requiring all polluters clean up. It allows some polluters—typically the oldest facilities located in low income communities of color—to continue or increase their pollutant emissions while other polluters further decrease emissions. CBE has joined other environmental justice groups in challenging cap and trade, and this EIR.

“Allowing the most entrenched polluters to pollute violates our environmental rights and is not the way stop the catastrophic poisoning of our air and our climate,” said Bill Gallegos, CBE’s Executive Director.

“There is a better way, and this must be considered, because the cleanup needed now is too big to be achieved by trampling environmental rights and too urgent for wasting time on false solutions,” he said.