# COMMUNITIES FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

## Community-Based Research Summary (2007-2009)

With an issue of importance to the community, Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) aims to combine knowledge with action and to achieve social change to improve health outcomes and eliminate the unequal burden of environmental hazards. Community-based participatory research is a collaborative and equitable approach to conducting research, involving residents of the affected area and researchers.

## Mapping Study (October 2007)

The mapping study of the "Hegenberger Corridor," documents over 45 "sensitive receptors", such as day cares, churches, schools, and recreation centers in close proximity to a large concentration of pollution sources – over 210 identified, including 68 auto-repair businesses, 27 diesel truck-related businesses, 50 manufacturing business, and sites where



diesel trucks idle. Filled in circles are hazards; grey circles are sensitive receptors in the map to the left.

The total burden of multiple sources of pollution from air, water, and land plus social and economic stressors is called **Cumulative Impacts** by some. Cumulative Impacts disproportionately affects low-income people of color and it is an **Environmental Justice** issue. This is a direct result of the lack of attention of planners and decision-makers to community health and deliberate actions to unequally place toxic pollution in low-income communities of color.

You can download the full report at http://www.cbecal.org/campaigns/oakland.html

# Air Monitoring of Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5 (October 2008)

Particulate Matter (PM) comes from the emissions of refineries, power plants, industry, trucks and automobiles. PM is very small; PM 2.5 can be inhaled deep into the lungs. PM is linked to a number of adverse health problems, including triggering asthma attacks and increased asthma hospitalizations. PM is especially dangerous to children, elderly and people with existing medical conditions.

We monitored in four areas: along San Leandro St near AB & I and where diesel trucks park; at Allen Temple Baptist Church, Rise and ACORN Woodland Elementary Schools and EnCompass Academy; Tassafaronga Recreation Center; and around Jefferson Smurfit Corp. at 77<sup>th</sup> Ave and Hawley. The PM2.5 air monitoring study showed high levels of PM 2.5 in East Oakland, higher than the Alameda County air monitoring stations and the California EPA standard. PM2.5 reached levels 2.5 times higher than Grass Valley Elementary School in the Oakland Hills.



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### Diesel Truck Survey (Summers 2009 & 2010)

Diesel emissions consist of a number of compounds, including PM. It is linked to adverse health impacts, including decreased lung function in children, low birth weight, and asthma.

CBE counted and categorized trucks at 12 intersections in the Hegenberger Corridor and counted 11,664 diesel trucks in 10 half-days. Hegenberger Rd /73<sup>rd</sup> St and Baldwin St was the busiest intersection. CBE counted 2,146 diesel trucks in two days. At 98<sup>th</sup> St and San Leandro St – the second busiest intersection – CBE counted 2,016 diesel trucks.

You can download the Factsheet at http://www.cbecal.org/campaigns/oakland.html

#### Community Health Survey (July – December 2009)

CBE collected 351 surveys (333 in English; 18 in Spanish) filled out by East Oakland residents. Surveyed August and October-December 2009.

- 85.8% of people (survey-takers) answered 'Yes' (346 answered) that they have access to health care.
- 24.3% of people (survey-takers) answered 'Yes' (350 answered) that a doctor or other health professional told them that they had asthma
- 38.1% of people (survey-takers) answered 'Yes' (344 answered) that someone else in their household was told that they had asthma

Top three totals of responses to the following statements:

- A. I think this neighborhood is a good place for me to live (348 answered). 29% Somewhat Agree
- B. I feel safe in this neighborhood (347 answered). 25% Strongly Disagree
- C. I think there are plenty of good jobs that pay enough for individuals and families in Oakland (348 answered). **47% Strongly Disagree**
- D. I think that there are many retail options, like clothing stores, book stores, coffee shops, restaurants, in my neighborhood (347 answered). **31% Strongly Disagree**
- E. There are no autobody shops in my neighborhood (344 answered). 33% Strongly Disagree
- F. I can get to every place that I need to using public transportation (bus or BART), or by biking or walking (344 answered). **39% Strongly Agree**
- G. There is never any heavy car or truck traffic in this neighborhood (345 answered). 33% Strongly Disagree
- H. I am not concerned about air pollution from traffic in my neighborhood (344 answered). 42% Strongly Disagree
- I. I never hear loud noises from trucks, cars, motorcycles, trains, or airplanes in my neighborhood (346 answered). **49% Strongly Disagree**
- J. My neighborhood has no vacant lots or vacant houses (345 answered). 33% Strongly Disagree
- K. I am not concerned about major sources of industrial pollution in my neighborhood (347 answered). **39% Strongly Disagree**
- L. There is a full service, affordable supermarket near my house (346 answered). 25% Somewhat Agree
- M. I am not concerned about Diesel Truck sources of air pollution in my neighborhood (348 answered). **37% Strongly Disagree**
- N. There are many places for youth to engage in positive activities in my neighborhood (347 answered). 33% Strongly Disagree



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