

# Wilmington Resource Guide

## **Acknowledgments**

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support of the California Community Foundation and was
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First Edition

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# - Introduction -

While Wilmington is overshadowed by industry, it is also home to a vibrant community of over 53.000 residents. Over 45,000 of these residents identify as Latino. Wilmington has a higher proportion of families living in poverty than the City of Los Angeles as a whole. Wilmington, like many other low-income communities of color is a clear example of environmental injustice: communities that are disproportionately impacted by multiple polluting facilities and pollution sources.

Communities for a Better Environment has worked since the 1990s in Wilmington alongside residents demanding a better quality of life, and together we have been successful in winning enforcement of regulations and tough new policies.

This resource guide is intended to help further empower you and your fellow Wilmington neighbors by providing phone numbers to call when you see environmental problems in your neighborhood and describing how to keep track of these problems so that your local officials can take action to stop them from happening in the future.



# Communities for a Better Environment

Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) is a social justice organization with a focus on environmental health and justice. We organize in working class communities of color because our communities suffer the most from environmental pollution and toxics.

CBE works in urban communities in Northern and Southern California among low-income African Americans. Latinos and other marginalized groups who are bombarded by pollution from freeways, power plants, oil refineries, seaports, airports, and chemical manufacturers. These pollutants place an undue burden on our communities causing many families to suffer from very high rates of asthma and respiratory illnesses, heart problems, cancer, low birth weight, and miscarriages.

CBE works in these communities because they are also centers of resistance to environmental racism. CBE utilizes the following tools to win concrete victories that improve community health:

- Community Organizing
- Science Research
- Legal Strategies
- Communications

Young people have played a central role in winning campaign to reduce pollution.
CBE's youth program, Youth for Environmental Justice (Youth-

The EJ) works with students mission of from 5 high schools to Communities for a provide safe spaces **Better Environment** for shared learning is to achieve and taking action to environmental health improve community and justice by building conditions. CBE grassroots power in and currently works with communities with students from of color and Huntington Park, working-class South Gate. communities Southeast, International and Banning High Schools.

> CBE believes in building community power to help achieve the basic human right to clean air, clean water, and clean land and public space. In over thirty years of existence, CBE and its community members, including young people, have won some of the most important environmental policies in the nation - including strong regulations of power plant and oil refinery emissions. Our experience proves that organized communities truly can move mountains.

# **CBE Campaigns**

Communities for a Better Environment works for environmental health and justice in Los Angeles, particularly in Wilmington and Southeast LA, with residents concerned about environmentally unhealthy and unjust practices. CBE works to increase Oil Refinery accountability, to monitor LA Port expansion and to increase youth involvement in environmental justice.

#### Clean up Green Up LA Campaign

It's a violation of our basic human rights when people in Wilmington or Southeast Los Angeles suffer greater levels of disease and death from pollution. Every day in Los Angeles, people breathe unhealthy air that causes asthma, lung disease, cancer and premature death. Low-income communities of color have more than our fair share of toxic hot spots that pose significant environmental hazards to human health and safety. By addressing the problem head-on, starting with our most impacted neighborhoods, we make LA cleaner for everyone.

The Clean Up Green Up campaign aims to transform Los Angeles communities most impacted by industrial pollution into vibrant and healthy places for families to live. Specifically, the campaign proposes to create "green zones" in Wilmington, Pacoima and Boyle Heights to:

**PREVENT** worsening conditions in our over burdened neighborhoods; **REDUCE** the amount of existing pollution that is making our children sick; and,

**REVITALIZE** and invest in our communities to make them healthier, with green businesses and green spaces.

The Clean Up Green Up campaign is sponsored by: Coalition for a Safe Environment, Communities for a Better Environment, Pacoima Beautiful, and Union de Vecinos.









#### Oil Industry Watchdog

While oil companies are making record profits, communities living in the shadows of oil refineries and drilling facilities are suffering health impacts from preventable air pollution emissions.

CBE staff and members in Wilmington have monitored and advocated for cleaner oil refinery practices since 1997. Using our three departments of community organizing, legal strategies and scientific research, CBE has been successful in winning pollution reduction measures, including:

- Winning a lawsuit which forced oil companies to use technology to capture toxic vapors when transferring oil from tankers.
- Winning regulations that require refineries to reduce toxic emissions from refinery flares.

Currently, CBE is monitoring the operations of Warren E&P, which is drilling oil in a residential neighborhood in Wilmington. CBE will continue to monitor regular operations and expansion projects from the oil industry in Wilmington to ensure that refineries and drilling companies minimize the negative impacts they have on the local communities.

#### **Clean Air for Port Communities**

#### **I-710 Expansion**

Residents along the I-710 corridor are concerned about proposed plans to expand the freeway, adding lanes to accommodate more diesel trucks traveling to and from the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Working with allies in a coalition (Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice – CEHAJ), CBE is organizing and advocating for a reduction of pollution and an improvement of corridor conditions, pushing for cleaner alternatives to the increasing diesel-based goods movement in the region.

#### Ports Expansion

CBE is working with allies to monitor port expansion projects that might increase pollution in Wilmington and the region as a whole. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach combined form the largest port complex in the country and the third largest in the world. Approximately 40% of imports to the U.S. travel through this port complex, much of which is transported by diesel trucks. CBE advocates for clean technologies and public participation opportunities so that Wilmington residents have a voice in the decision-making process.

# Health Hazards in Wilmington

Wilmington has some of the highest rates of exposure to air pollution in the region. According to the AQMD MATES III Study, the cancer risk associated with air pollution in Southern California is generally in excess of 1,200 in a million. Some parts of Wilmington, however, have a cancer risk in excess of 2,000 in a million, far exceeding the average cancer risk for the region. The high cancer risk in Wilmington, though troubling, is just one indicator and does not begin to capture the real impact on the quality of people's lives. Air pollution affects developing fetuses, children, the elderly and people with existing illnesses through higher asthma rates, cardiac disease, and overall poor health. Taking all these factors into account would present a far more realistic picture of cumulative health impacts in Wilmington.

40% of all the goods shipped into the US arrive into the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Wilmington sits upwind from the Port of Los Angeles, which combined with the Port of Long Beach is the largest and most polluting port complex in the country, and according to one study is responsible for 1,200 premature deaths annually. The Ports are responsible for 20% of toxic emissions in the four-county (Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino and Riverside) South Coast air basin. Residents of Wilmington on the fence-line of the ports are most vulnerable to health impacts from exposure to these deadly and harmful emissions.

Angeles and Long Beach are placed onto heavily polluting diesel trucks, many of which pass through the city streets of Wilmington. A study in the Journal of the Transportation Research Board documented daily averages of 400-600 Heavy-duty diesel trucks (HDDT's) passing through Anaheim St. and Pacific Coast Highway on their way to I-170. These trucks pass by homes, schools, and parks in Wilmington, exposing residents to high levels of diesel emissions. These trucks then make their way to the freeways in droves. Just on one freeway— the 710, at the eastern edge of Wilmington—, has an average of 1,100 diesel trucks pass by every hour during the day, with as many as 2,600 trucks per hour.

Wilmington sits on top of the third largest oil field in the U.S., and is the site of both small and large oil drilling operations. In a recent survey near one of the largest oil drilling operations in the region, the community identified numerous problems such as loud noises during day and night, headaches, nausea, dust, breathing problems, asthma attacks and many other impacts that are associated with the operation of this facility.

The Wilmington/Carson area has the highest concentration of refineries in California with an astonishing 650,000 barrels per day of crude oil processing (about a third of the state's total). Refinery emissions include greenhouse gases, toxic and smog causing chemicals. The refineries in this area by themselves emit 1,600 tons per year of Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). Half of all the VOC emissions from all the refineries in LA County come from the small communities of Wilmington and Carson.

Wilmington is also ground zero for the largest number of overlapping refinery air pollution plumes in California. Even leaving aside its many industrial and mobile pollution sources, Wilmington is one of California's hardest hit communities in terms of the cumulative impacts of pollution from refineries.

According to a 2007 database, Wilmington hosts 13 large toxic release facilities (TRI) responsible for releasing 718,000 pounds of pollution and generating 18,000,000 pounds of waste in 2007. In addition to these large facilities, Wilmington is host to many smaller polluting facilities from, auto body shops and chrome plating facilities to hazardous waste disposal facilities and sewage treatment operations.



# **Wilmington**

Population\*\*: 54,512 people

Area: 9.14 square miles

#### Race/Ethnicity\*

Latino 86.6% White 6.4% Asian 2.7% Black 2.6% Other 1.7%

#### Education\*

(residents 25 years and up)

Less than High School 61.19% High School Diploma 19.98% Some College 13.73% Bachelor's degree 3.02% Master's degree or higher 2.09%

# Who Represents Me?\*

#### City of Los Angeles

#### Janice Hahn

City Council District 15 Wilmington Field Office 544 N. Avalon Blvd. Wilmington, 90744 Phone: (310)-233-7201

#### County of Los Angeles

#### Don Knabe

District 4
San Pedro Field Office
505 South Centre St.
San Pedro, 90731
Phone: (310) 519-6021
Fax: (310) 732-7927

#### **CA Assembly Districts**

#### **Bonnie Lowenthal**

54th Assembly District (Port Area) District Office 110 Pine Avenue Suite 804 Long Beach, 90802 Phone: (562) 495-2915 Fax: (562) 495-2983

#### Warren T. Furutani

55th Assembly District *District Office:* 4201 Long Beach Blvd. Suite 327 Long Beach, 90807 Phone: (562) 989-2919 Fax: (562) 989-5494

#### **CA Senate District**

#### Roderick D. Wright

Senate District 25 (Port Area) One Manchester Blvd., #600 Inglewood, 90301 Phone:(310) 412-0393

#### Ted W. Lieu

Senate District 28 District Office 2512 Artesia Blvd., #320 Redondo Beach, 90278 Phone: (310) 318-6994 Fax: (310) 318-6733

<sup>\*</sup>Based on Census 2000 data

<sup>\*\*</sup>L.A. Department of City Planning 2008 estimate

#### LA Unified School District

#### **Michael Romero**

Local District 8 Superintendent 1208 Magnolia Ave.

Gardena, 90247

Phone: 310-354-3400 Fax: 310-532-4674

#### **Richard Vladovic**

District 7 Board Member 333 South Beaudry, 24th Floor Los Angeles, Ca. 90017 Telephone: (213) 241-6385

Fax: (213) 241-8452

richard.vladovic@lausd.net

#### **US Congress**

Vacant Seat (election July 2011) 36 US Congressional Dist. Wilmington Office 544 N. Avalon Blvd., Suite 307

Wilmington, 90744 Phone: (310) 549 8282 Fax: (310) 549 8250

#### Dana Rohrabacher

46 US Congressional Dist. (Port Area)
District Office
101 Main Street, Suite 380
Huntington Beach, 92648
Phone: (310) 377-9493
Fax: (714) 960-7806

#### **US Senate**

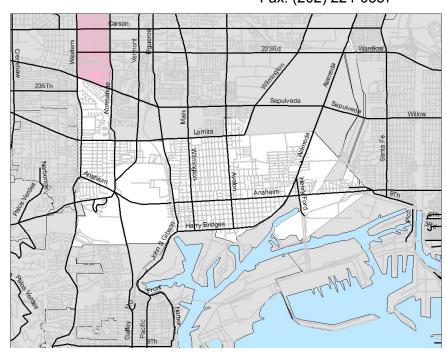
## Office of U.S. Senator Diane Feinstein

Los Angeles 11111 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite 915

Los Angeles, 90025 Phone: (310) 914-7300 Fax: (310) 914-7318

## Office of U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer

312 N. Spring St. Suite 1748 Los Angeles, 90012 Phone: (213) 894-5000 Fax: (202) 224-0357



# Wilmington P

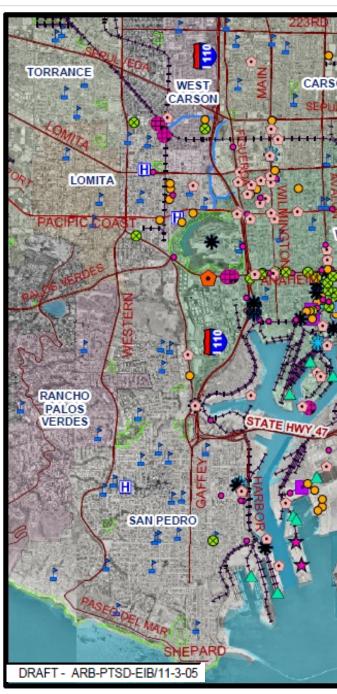
#### Wilmington NAP Facilities

- PETROLEUM REFINING
- PETROL PRODN, DISTRIBN
- CHEMICAL RELATED
- POWER PLANTS & RELATED
- \* TRUCKING / WAREHOUSING
- MARINE & RELATED
- AUTO RELATED
- WELDING RELATED
- ★ GOVT / MILITARY
- MISC INDUSTR / COMMERC
- MISC SERVICES

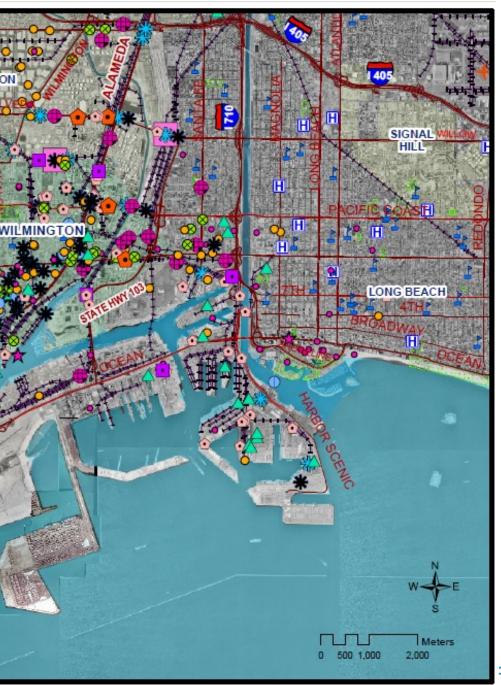
#### Other

- Schools
- H Hospitals
- Airports
- Parks
- Intermodal Facilities (NTAD)
- Major Railyards
- HH Railroads
- Roads

This map was prepared by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). It shows the results of an emissions inventory and air quality monitoring study as part of its Neighborhood Assessment Program



# ollution Sources



# Oil Refinery Flares



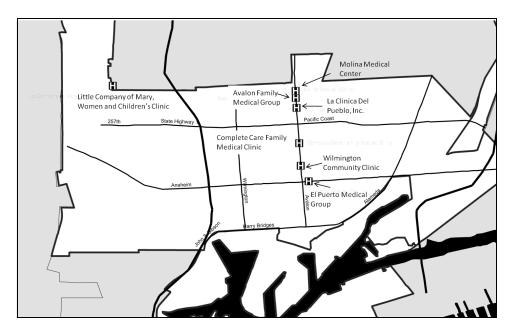
Flaring occurs when oil refineries burn their "excess" gasses. Although refineries should only flare during emergencies, South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) reported that between the years 2000 and 2003, only 2 to 14 percent flaring volume was due to emergencies.

For decades refinery neighbors have reported noxious odors, black smoke clouds, and respiratory symptoms during major flaring events. There are many things refineries can do to reduce their flaring, and communities have pushed for and won stronger flare control rules from AQMD. Now we must ensure that those rules are followed.

Refinery Flaring emits hydrocarbons, particulate matter, Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons, Sulfur Oxides, Nitrogen Oxides, and Carbon Oxides. These chemicals can cause a number of acute and chronic health problems such as asthma attacks, cardiovascular problems, and increased cancer risk.

If you see refinery flaring, call 1-800-CUT-SMOG to report this potential violation.

# Health & Medical Resources



#### Wilmington Community Clinic\*

1009 N Avalon Blvd, Wilmington, CA 90744 • (310) 549-5760 \*Clinic provides free treatment for people with respiratory ailments. (must qualify for program)

#### Other Clinics in Wilmington

#### **Avalon Family Medical Group**

1626 N Avalon Blvd, Wilmington, CA 90744 • (310) 834-4666

#### **El Puerto Medical Group**

200 E Anaheim St Wilmington, CA 90744 • (310) 835-4000

#### **Molina Medical Center**

1703 N Avalon Blvd Wilmington, CA 90744 • (310) 518-6146

#### Little Company of Mary Women and Children's Clinic

1403 Lomita Blvd, Harbor City, CA 90710 • (310) 784-5800

#### **Complete Care Family Medical Clinic**

1231 N Avalon Blvd Wilmington, CA 90744 • (310) 835-721

# For Life threatening Emergencies call 911 Additional emergency contacts

numbers on the back page.

#### Flares, dust, smoke and odor: The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD): 1-800-CUT-SMOG (800-288-7664) 24-hour hotline for complaints. An inspector will check on the reported situation.

#### OR: Wilmington office for Representative Janice Hahn\*: (310) 233-7201

Ask for Celina Luna or the local community advocate: celina.luna@lacity.org

OR: The facility that is responsible for the pollution. (Check website or phonebook for contact info).

#### General environmental concerns:

#### **Environmental Protection** Agency (EPA):

Southern California Field Office: (213) 244-1800 OR online at: http:// www.epa.gov/compliance/ complaints/index.html

#### Spills and dumping; trash left on public property:

Los Angeles Department of Public Works: 1-800-974-9794

#### Non-Emergency Assistance City of Los Angeles non-emergency assistance toll-free phone number to contact City of Los Angeles officials for any non-emergency public service: 311

#### **Excessive noise: LAPD Noise Abatement Unit:** (213) 847-3398

This unit will warn the person making the excessive noise and can also give out citations. When necessary, they will help lodge a complaint in the City Attorney's office.

#### Police:

Non-emergency crimes: 1-877-ASK-LAPD (877-275-5273) General questions and information: (310) 726-7700

#### At the workplace:

**CA Division of Labor** Standards Enforcement: Long Beach: (562) 590-5048

#### **US Department of Labor:**

www.osha.gov/pls/osha7/ eComplaintForm.html File complaints (anonymously or not) on the Internet using this form.

#### Mold

http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/eh/ housing/brochure/moldhome.pdf

Additional Information: U.S. EPA IAQ INFO, (800) 438-4318,

9 am to 5 pm, Eastern Time, www.epa.gov/iaq/

California Department of Health Services

Indoor Air Quality Section, 850 Marina Bay Parkway (EHLB), Richmond, CA 94804 Phone: 510-620-2874

## county.gov/eh/ Properly disposing of used motor oil

**1-800-Cleanup** (800) 253-2687 You can also visit their website for more information on recycling in your area

www.Earth911.com

#### **Lead**

The Los Angeles County Department of Health Services offers a toll-free hotline for parents, homeowners, preschool operators and others concerned about lead poisoning of children. For referrals and information, call

(800) LA-4-LEAD.

What is an Emergency?

And what should I Report!

An emergency is a situation that cause.

An emergency is a situation that causes a sudden and immediate risk to one's health, safety, property or the environment and requires immediate attention. Environmental emergencies include oil and other chemical spills as well as other accidents that cause a sudden release of pollution into the air, land, or water. These types of emergencies could arise from unexpected events at factories or from spills during transportation. If you witness an event like this, please contact the appropriate agency from the Emergencies section on the back page immediately.

Non-emergencies include situations such as flares or unusually large amounts of emissions from industrial facilities, bad odors and excessive noise. These examples of non-emergency environmental problems can and should

be reported to the appropriate agency.

# WHO TO CALL?

#### Continued....

#### Animal Control Center

- · Stray / Deceased animals
- · Vaccination clinic
- · Lost animals
- Pet Adoption

Los Angeles City (888) 452-7381

#### **Asthma & Allergy Foundation**

- · Pollen count
- · Breath mobile
- · Children's program
- · Senior's program (800) 624-0044 (323) 937-7859 Los Angeles

www.aafasocal.com

#### **Asbestos**

Environmental Hygiene (626) 430-5440

#### **Bee Infestation**

Vector Control Los Angeles County (626) 575-5471

#### **Bulky Item Pick-Up**

Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation (800) 773-2489

#### **Crime Victims Assistance**

Financial assistance for victims of crime (800) 777-9229 www.boc.ca.gov

## Fair Employment and Housing, Dept of

Employment discrimination Complaints

Housing discrimination complaints (800) 884-1684 or (800) 233-3212 www.dfeh.ca.gov

#### **Health Haz Mat**

- · Hazardous Materials
- · Business inspections
- · Chemical spills
- · Permits fire, film, building
- · Illegal dumping (800) 69-TOXIC (800) 698-6942 Los Angeles County (323) 890-4045

#### **Labor Standards & Enforcement**

(213) 620-6330 or (888) 275-9243

#### **Lead Poisoning**

National Lead Information (800) 424-5323

## Leaf Blowers (Los Angeles City Only)

Complaint Center (800) 996-2489

## Los Angeles County of Public Works

Hazardous Materials (closed Friday) (888) 253-2652

#### Managed Health Care, Dept of

Complaints against a HMO (800) 996-2489

#### **Medical Board of California**

Complaints against a doctor (800) 633-2322

www.medbd.ca.gov

## Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA

- · Transportation incentive program
- · Freeway service patrol
- · Metro rail locations, maps
- Customer relations, fare information

Los Angeles County (213) 922-6235

www.mta.net

#### Mosquitoes

Los Angeles Mosquito Abatement (310) 915-7370

#### **National Do Not Call Registry**

(888) 382-1222 www.donotcall.gov

#### **Recycling Center**

(800) 732-9253 www.consrv.ca.gov

#### **Sewer and Storm Drain Odors**

· LA City "311" or (866) 447-3937 · LA Co Public Works (626) 458-4357

## Smoking Establishment (Reporting)

Reporting Smoking Violators Los Angeles (213) 351-7890

#### **State Disability Insurance**

(800) 480-3287

#### **State Operator**

Phone numbers for all state agencies (916) 657-9900 Toll call

#### **Storm Drain Dumping (Illegal)**

Storm Water Management (800) 974-9794

#### **Unemployment Insurance**

(800) 300-5616

#### **Veterans Affairs**

Veterans benefits or complaints (800) 952-5626 www.cdva.ca.gov

## Victim Compensation & Govt Claims Board

(800) 777-9229 & (800) 955-0045 www.vcgcb.ca.gov

#### **Water Quality Control Board**

State Board (916) 657-1247 Los Angeles County (213) 576-6600

## **Workers Compensation Public Assistance**

(800) 736-7401

Additional resources available through SCAQMD online <a href="http://www.aqmd.gov/complain/pdf/interagency">http://www.aqmd.gov/complain/pdf/interagency</a> referrals.pdf

# Know your Rights

Adapted from the ACLU, and from www.midnightspecial.net, Know Your Rights. This information is not intended to be used as legal advice, but rather to give suggestions as to how to deal with law enforcement. In the event of arrest nlease seek legal courses!

#### THERE ARE THREE TYPES OF ENCOUNTERS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- **Conversation**-this occurs when the law enforcement official does not have enough evidence to lawfully detain or arrest someone. This is often called a "casual encounter" or a "friendly conversation."
- Detention-detention only occurs when there is REASONABLE SUSPICION. Reasonable
  suspicion means that law enforcement must have more than a hunch that a crime has taken
  place. Under detention, a person is not arrested but they may not leave. When someone is
  detained, law enforcement may pat them down to make sure they do not have any weapons.
- Arrest-an arrest may only take place if the law enforcement officer has probable cause (meaning they have *more* than reasonable suspicion). Probable cause arises when law enforcement has information or potential proof that someone was involved in a crime. When someone is arrested the law enforcement may search to the skin and go through their personal belongings. If police come to your door with an arrest warrant, you can go outside and lock the door behind them. Law enforcement officers may go to any room you go into, so do not go back into your house upon arrest. It is better to just go with law enforcement and not give them any reason to search your house.

## WHAT ARE YOUR BASIC RIGHTS WHEN STOPPED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT?

- YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT. In order to use this right you must make it clear that you are choosing to exercise your right to remain silent.
- You have the right to refuse consent to a search of your house, car, personal possessions, or yourself.
- If you are not under arrest you have the right to calmly leave
- You have the right to an attorney. IF YOU ARE ARRESTED, IMMEDIATELY ASK FOR AN ATTORNEY.
- Regardless of your immigration or citizenship status, you have constitutional rights.

## THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN YOU ARE DEALING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

Although the situation may be stressful and law enforcement may be aggressive DO stay calm and be polite.

- DO NOT interfere with or obstruct law enforcement
- **DO NOT** give false documentation or lie.
- If you are undocumented, **DO** create a backup plan and prepare yourself or your family in the event of arrest and/or deportation.
- DO keep a record of the encounter with law enforcement, especially if law enforcement was unnecessarily rough or violent with you.
- DO file (and keep a copy of) a written complaint, or call your local ACLU if your rights have been violated.- (213) 977 9500.



#### IF YOU ARE STOPPED FOR QUESTIONING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

- If a law enforcement officer asks you anything other than your name and address you may exercise your right to remain silent by saying: "I AM GOING TO REMAIN SILENT. I WANT TO SEE AN ATTORNEY."
- As soon as these words are used, the law enforcement officer is LEGALLY REQUIRED to stop asking further questions.
- If the law enforcement officer(s) continues to ask question repeat the above mentioned words until they stop asking you questions.
- Anything you say to the authorities can and will be used against you and your friends in court.

#### IF POLICE OR IMMIGRATION AGENTS COME TO YOUR HOME

- You do not have to let them in your home unless they have specific warrants:
- A search warrant is used to search your address but only the areas that were indicated to be searched in the warrant.
- An arrest warrant allows the officer to enter the home of a person listed on the warrant if they believe the person is inside. A warrant of removal/ deportation (ICE warrant) does not allow officers to enter without consent.
- Ask the officer to slip the warrant under the door or hold it to the window so you may inspect it.



#### IF YOU FEEL YOUR RIGHTS MAY HAVE BEEN VIOLATED

- WRITE DOWN EVERY-THING YOU REMEMBER, including officers' badge numbers, where the officer is from, and any other details that stand out. Get witness information if you can, and if you are injured, take photographs of your injury and seek medical attention.
- File a written complaint with the agency's internal affairs division or civilian complaint board. In many case you may file complaints anonymously.

#### IF YOU ARE CONTACTED BY THE FBI

- If an FBI agent comes to your home or workplace, you do not have to answer any questions. You may tell the agent you want to speak to an attorney first.
- If you are asked to meet with the FBI agent(s) for an interview, you have the right to say you do not want to be interviewed. If you consent to an interview, have your attorney present. You do not need to answer questions that you feel uncomfortable answering, and you can say that you will only answer questions on specific topics.

#### IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

- · Do not resist arrest, even if you believe the arrest is unfair.
- Remember to immediately SAY YOU WISH TO REMAIN SILENT AND WANT A LAWYER.
- You have a right to make a local phone call. If you are calling your attorney the police cannot listen to your phone call.
- Prepare yourself and your family in case you are arrested. Memorize the phone numbers of your family members and your lawyer (if you have one).

- will only answer questions on specific topics.

  SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR NON-CITIZENS IF YOU ARE ARRESTED

   Ask your lawyer about the effect of a criminal conviction or plea on your immigration status.

   Don't discuss your immigration status with anyone but your lawyer.

   While you are in jail, an immigration agent may visit you. Do not answer questions or sign anything before consulting with your attorney. Read all papers fully. If you do not understand or cannot read the papers, tell the officer you need an interpreter.

  IF YOU ARE TAKEN INTO IMMIGRATION (OR "ICE") CUSTODY

   You have a right to a lawyer, but the government does not have to provide one for you. If you do not have a lawyer, ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services.

   You have the right to contact your consulate or have an ICE agent inform the consulate of your arrest.

   Tell the ICE agent you wish to remain silent and do not discuss your immigration status.

   DO NOT SIGN ANYTHING without speaking with your attorney.

   Memorize your immigration number ("A" number) and give it to your family. It will help your family locate you.

   Keep a copy of your immigration papers with someone you trust.

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# **Your Vote Matters!**



It is important that you actively engage in the political process. Don't let others make the decisions that will affect you and your community. Minority communities had to fight hard to win the right to vote. Let's use it, or we could lose it!

# Register to Vote!

**Voter Registration Forms** - The Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk provides Voter Registration forms and assistance in six languages other than English in compliance with Federal and State laws (Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Vietnamese, Tagalog and Korean).

Register In Person - LAX COURTHOUSE

11701 S. La Cienega Blvd., 6th Floor Los Angeles, CA 90045 (310) 727-6142

**Register By Mail** – You can mail a completed Voter Registration form to our office. Voter Registration forms may be obtained in the following ways:

- Request A Voter Registration Form By Phone Residents may request that a
  Voter Registration form be mailed by calling the Registrar-Recorder/County
  Clerk's general information telephone numbers: (562) 466-1310 or
  (800) 481-VOTE, 24 hours a day.
- Obtain A Voter Registration Form At Most Government Buildings Voter Registration forms are available throughout Los Angeles County at most County buildings, city halls, fire stations, libraries, State Motor Vehicle Offices, Public Assistance Offices (DPSS, WIC), and post offices.
- Download a Voter Registration Form You can download a Voter Registration form in English or Spanish by visiting: www.sos.ca.gov/nvrc/fedform/.

# You Should Re-Register if:

- You changed your permanent address
- You changed your name
- You changed your political party

# **Know Your Voting Rights**

- 1. You have the right to cast a ballot if you are a valid registered voter.
- 2. You have the right to cast a provisional ballot if your name is not listed on the voting rolls.
- 3. You have the right to cast a ballot if you are present and in line at the polling place prior to the close of the polls.
- 4. You have the right to cast a secret ballot free from intimidation.
- 5. You have the right to receive a new ballot if, prior to casting your ballot, you believe you made a mistake.
- 6. You have the right to receive assistance in casting your ballot, if you are unable to vote without assistance.
- 7. You have the right to return a completed vote-by-mail ballot to any precinct in the county.
- 8. You have the right to election materials in another language, if there are sufficient residents in your precinct to warrant production. LA County provides materials in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.
- 9. You have the right to ask questions about election procedures and observe the election process.
- 10. You have the right to report any illegal or fraudulent activity to a local elections official or to the Secretary of State's Office.

If you believe you have been denied any of these rights, or you are aware of any election fraud or misconduct, please call the Secretary of State's confidential toll-free Voter Hotline at 1-800-345-VOTE (8683).

# Find Your Polling Place

#### From the Secretary of State Website:

To find your polling location and learn more about your rights, log onto www.lavote.net

Election Protection Hotline: 1-866-OUR-VOTE



**Additional number to call:** LA County Election Protection Hotline: 1-800-481-VOTE

# How do I Make a Complaint?



Everyone has the right to a healthy environment. If you live next to polluting facilities like refineries, oil extraction facilities, factories, rail lines, or any other pollution source you don't have to give up your right to a healthy environment. These polluting facilities have to ensure that their emissions fall within safety standards set by various regulatory agencies. We have prepared this guide to help you determine the appropriate regulatory agency or local elected official to call when you notice bad smells, excessive noise, dust, smoke or other problems. These regulatory agencies keep a log of community complaints and issue fines to facilities that are violating their permits. So make sure you document these problems to help improve the quality of life in your community.

- **Observe** Get to know the patterns in your community, so you can see what is out of the ordinary. Check with your neighbors to see if they notice the problem too.
- Write it down If something is out of the ordinary, write it down. You can use the log book on the following pages to keep track of these problems. Encourage your neighbors to keep track of these problems.
- Tell someone Contact the local regulatory agency, like the AQMD, the Police, the Noise Abatement Department, or the facility that is causing the problem. Be sure to also contact your City Council Representative. Encourage your neighbors to contact these people as well. They are required to log complaints, and if you and your neighbors make enough complaints these can be helpful when taking action against a facility.
- Follow up It's important to check back with the people you called to make sure that your complaint was heard. If you need more support in dealing with your complaint, contact CBE organizers in Wilmington (\*see back page for contact info).





CALL

AQMD
1-800-CUT-SMOG
City Council Representative
(310) 233-7201
Problem Facility
Look for the number in the phone book

Noise Abatement
(213) 847-3398
City Council Representative
(310) 233-7201
Problem Facility
Look for the number in the phone book

# Follow up

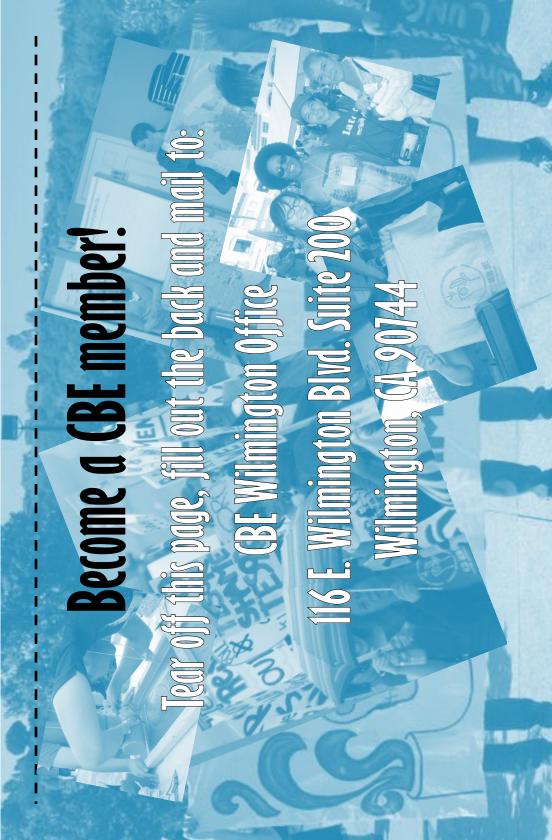
Ask for someone to come out to investigate the problem. If you call AQMD ask for an inspector. Be sure to take down the name of the person that you spoke with.

TIME PROBLEM OCCURED	TYPE OF PROBLEM	TIME PROBLEM LASTED	WHO TO CALL	DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM & LOCATION
Date 2 / 21 / 11 Day of the Week Monday Time 3: 50am pm	Vibration Traffic	[] Less than 5 min [] 5-20 min [] 20-60 min [] 1-2 hours [] 2-4 hours [] more than 4 [] hours [] Other	[ ] AQMD (Dust, odors, smoke, flare) 1-800-CUT-SMOG  Noise Abatement Dpt. (Noise) (213) 847-3398  LA City Council District 15 (310) 233-7201 – ask for Celina Luna, the local Community Advocate  [ ] Problem Facility	LOCATION: 1st & Main St. DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM: Acme Corp. Low hum causing cracks in my foundations and keep me up at night
Date 2 / 21 / 11 Day of the week onday Time 7: 30 pm	[ ] Noise [X Odor [ ] Vibration [ ] Traffic [ ] Dust [ ] Flare [ ] Other:	[ ] Less than 5 min [ ] 5-20 min [ ] 20-60 min	MAQMD (Dust, odors, smoke, flare) 1-800-CUT-SMOG  I Noise Abatement Dpt. (Noise) (213) 847-3398  LA City Council District 15 (310) 233-7201 − ask for Celina Luna, the local Community Advocate  Problem Facility	LOCATION: 5th & Main St. DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:  A rotten egg smell is coming from the Stinko Refinery

TIME PROBLEM OCCURED	TYPE OF PROBLEM	TIME PROBLEM LASTED	<b>W</b> НО ТО <b>С</b> АLL	DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM & LOCATION
Date / / / Day of the week Time : am pm	[ ] Noise [ ] Odor [ ] Vibration [ ] Traffic [ ] Dust [ ] Flare [ ] Other:	[ ] Less than 5 min [ ] 5-20 min [ ] 20-60 min [ ] 1-2 hours [ ] 2-4 hours [ ] more than 4 [ ] hours [ ] Other	[ ] AQMD (Dust, odors, smoke, flare) 1-800-CUT-SMOG [ ] Noise Abatement Dpt. (Noise) (213) 847-3398 [ ] LA City Council District 15 (310) 233-7201 – ask for Celina Luna, the local Community Advocate [ ] Problem Facility	LOCATION: DESCRIPTION OF PROBLEM:
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# Become a (BE member!

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- Donating money
- Donating time
- Donating a car

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Name	Address	City	Phone	

\$Other
\$100 \$Other
\$50
\$30

Donations may be made by check or credit card. Please make checks payable to:

Communities for a Better Environment.

Card Number Exp. Date CCV
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Your contribution is tax-deductable. TAX ID# 94-2998086





# Take Action with GBE

#### **Contact CBE!**

Visit our website for up to date Environmental Justice information. Sign up for our E-Newsletter and send us email with your questions or comments. Together we can improve environmental health in California.

#### Wilmington Office

116 E. Pacific Coast Highway Suite 200 Wilmington, CA 90744 Phone (310) 952-9097 • Fax (310) 925-4924 www.cbecal.org

#### Organizers:

Alicia Rivera • (310) 634-7839 cell •alicia@cbecal.org
Youth Organizer—Jonathan Perez • (310) 952-9097 • jonathan@cbecal.org

## **Emergencies:**

## Exposure to poison or other toxins:

If the person is unconscious, having trouble breathing, or convulsing, call 911 immediately.

Otherwise, call the California Poison Control System (CPCS):

1-800-222-1222

24 hour hotline will provide free expert treatment advice from pharmacists, physicians, and nurses.

## Oil or other chemical spills:

The National Response System (NRS): 24-hour hotline at

1-800-424-8802

OR online at: http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/nrchp.html

#### Police:

**Emergencies: 911** 

#### **At the Workplace:**

## US Department of Labor:

1-800-321-6742 or 1-877-889-5627

This number is for emergencies at work only and can be made anonymously.



CBE
www.checal.org