



Communities for a Better Environment

2021 Statement on Juneteenth

This Juneteenth (June 19th), Communities for a Better Environment's offices are closed to celebrate Black liberation, dreams, and joy in community.

Juneteenth commemorates the day in 1865 when enslaved Black people in Texas finally received the news that slavery had been formally abolished. Juneteenth is a day that honors Black freedom, resistance, and Black people's contribution to the ongoing struggle for justice for all.

Although only now being recognized as a national holiday 156 years later, Juneteenth marks a time of reflection for all Americans. Reparations are still owed. The deep legacy of white supremacy and slavery poisons every aspect of life in this country, including environmental racism. This history is why the environmental justice movement must be a racial justice movement—the movement for Black lives—and vice versa.

This inextricable link between movements could not be more apparent as the overlapping crises of police oppression and the Covid-19 pandemic continue to devastate Black communities since last year's Juneteenth. While the uprisings in response to the police murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade brought the need for a movement centered on racial justice back into focus, CBE continues to follow and support the leadership of Black organizers in their calls to defund the police and reinvest in community solutions, with the ultimate goal of abolishing the police.

CBE also recognizes the tremendous violence and injustice inflicted by the U.S. government on everyone across the country, but most especially Black communities, in its criminal mismanagement of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The well-documented link between air pollution exposure and worse health outcomes from Covid-19 is a whole new form of environmental racism towards Black communities that already breathe the worst air. In response, CBE supported its Black and other community members of color by establishing a Community Fund to distribute approximately \$151,000 to over 400 community members in need during the pandemic, all while continuing our campaigns for polluter accountability and stronger air pollution controls.

This Juneteenth, we declare again: Black Lives Matter. We recommit to honoring and celebrating the leadership of Black community members, Black organizers and staff at CBE, and partners in the environmental justice movement. We also recommit to the necessary work of rooting out white supremacy and anti-Blackness within our own organization and our communities. However you choose to honor Juneteenth, we hope this day inspires you to take action for the abolition of oppressive power structures and in celebration of Black power.

June 19th, 2021

Join us at the Black led actions and celebrations in communities near where CBE organizes.

NORCAL:

East Oakland: Black Cultural Zone's Akoma Market: <https://blacklovethrives.com/>

Richmond: [Caravan and Rally](#)

Bay Area: [List of events](#)

SOCAL:

[Leimert Park Rising](#)

South Bay: [List of events](#)

Los Angeles: [List of events](#)

In solidarity,

Communities for A Better Environment