


Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

The struggle for environmental health and justice in Kettleman City, California





Kettleman City, California: Picture Postcard of Environmental Racism and Injustice

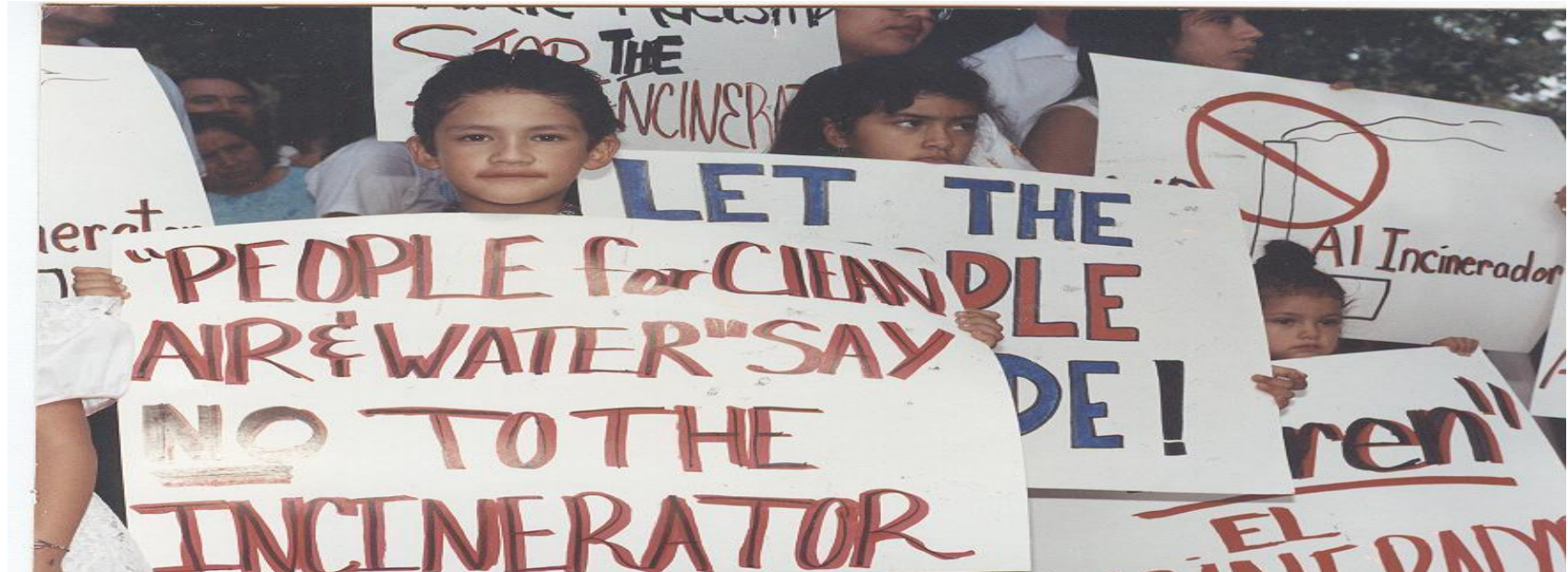
- Predominantly Spanish-speaking farmworker town in San Joaquin Valley
- About 1500 residents
- Long history of environmental exposure to toxins from a hazardous waste landfill, contaminated drinking water, pesticides, old oilfield operations, and diesel pollution
- Racial discrimination in Kings County, State & Federal Environmental decision-making processes

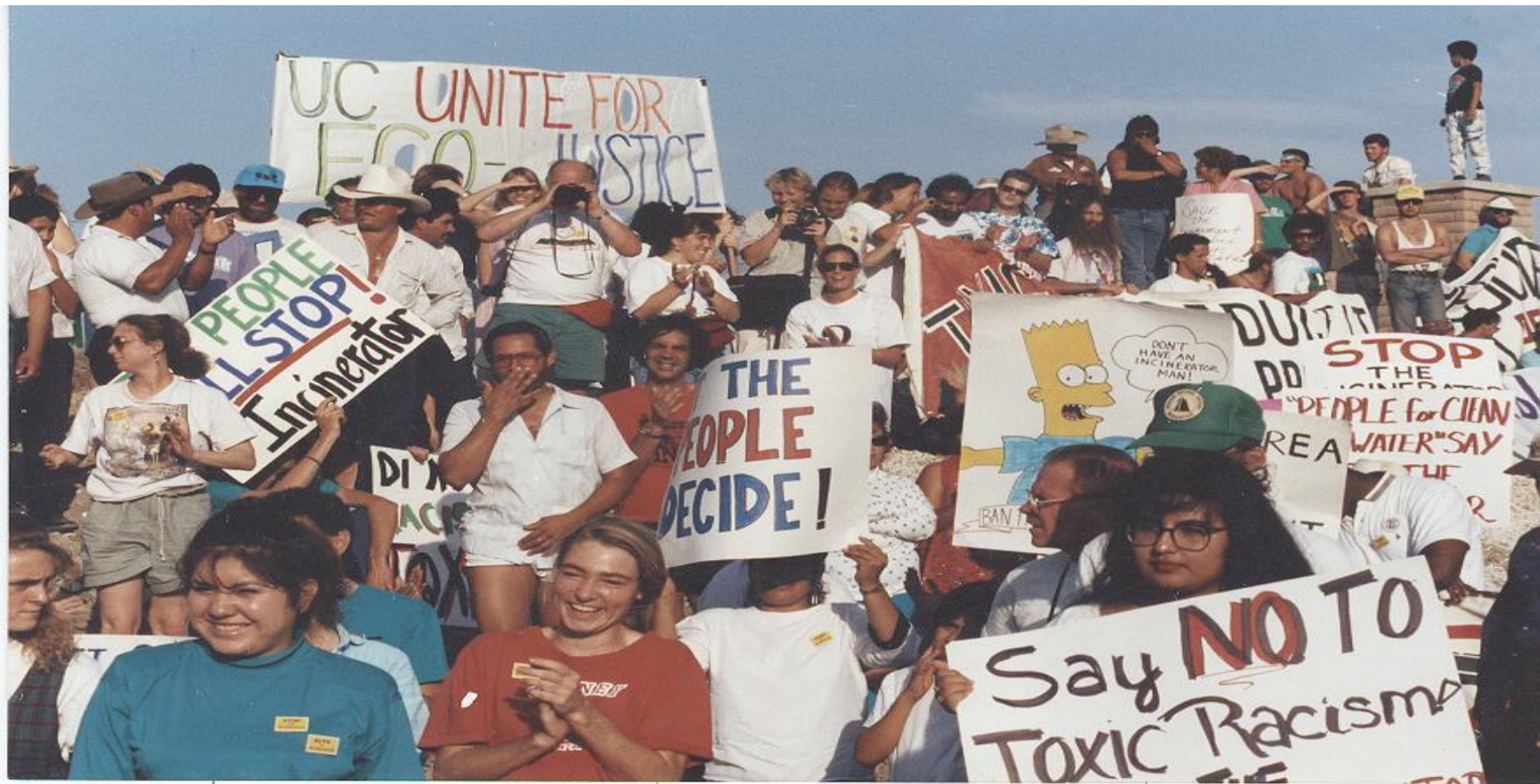


A Birthplace of Environmental Justice

- 1988: Chemical Waste Management proposes hazardous waste incinerator at site of Kettleman Hills hazardous waste landfill – the largest toxic waste dump in western US
- Kings County refuses to translate permit documents or public hearings
- Spanish speaking residents told to go to the back of the room
- 1993: In face of united community opposition and support from community and EJ groups from far and wide, Chem Waste withdraws their proposal

If the government won't the people will,
Stop the Incinerator! Alto al Incinerador!









“Don’t worry, everything is fine”

- **Local, State and Federal agencies claim toxic waste landfill is safe, refuses to consider cumulative impacts of pollution or to conduct biomonitoring of residents**
- **2009: Greenaction & El Pueblo Para el Aire y Agua Limpia de Kettleman City conduct Community Health Survey**
- **We discovered and documented many birth defects and infant deaths in 14 month period**





CalEnviroScreen 3.0

CalEnviroScreen is a tool made by California Environmental Protection Agency to help identify communities most affected by pollution.

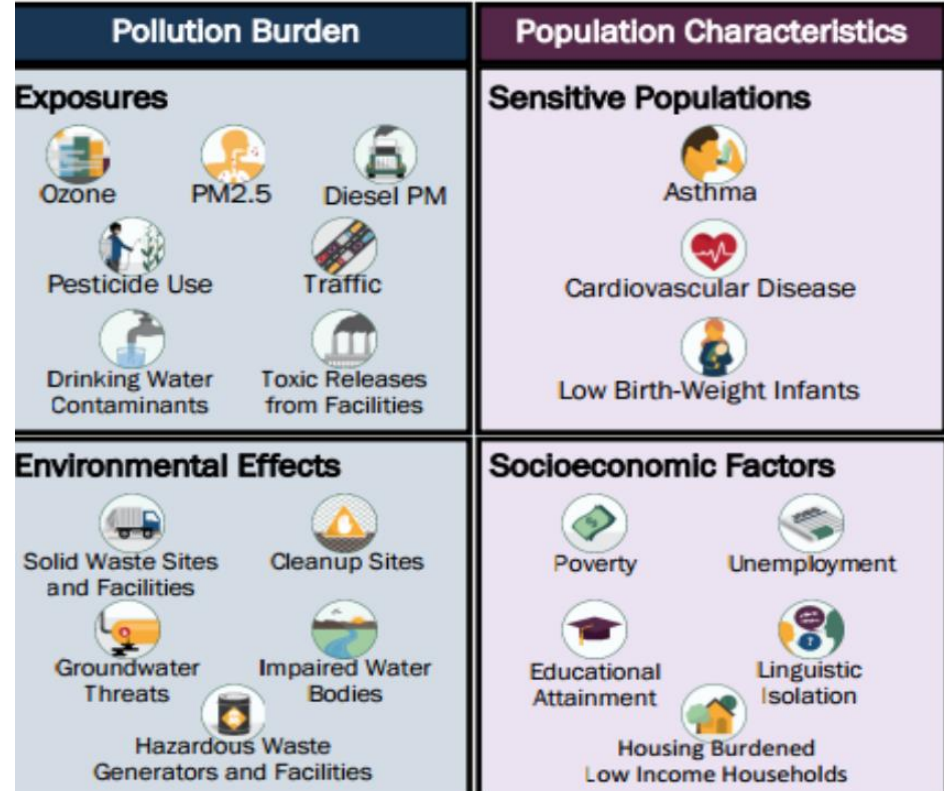
CalEnviroScreen measures indicators through these four main groups

Exposures	<i>Contact with pollution</i>
Environmental Effects	<i>Adverse environmental conditions caused by pollutants</i>
Sensitive Populations	<i>Populations with existing health conditions that may increase the effects of pollutants</i>
Socioeconomic Factors	<i>Community characteristics that result in increased vulnerability to pollutants, such as poverty</i>

Cumulative Impacts

CalEnviroScreen uses the *cumulative impact theory* to compare pollution levels and health risks in communities across California.

Cumulative impacts are the combination of different factors that when added together result in a higher impact.



What does this mean for Kettleman City?

Kettleman City has a higher pollution burden than 90% of California.



CalEnviroScreen results for Kettleman City:

For Environmental, Health factors, or Population Characteristics, the higher the %, the more the factor affects the community.

Environmental Factors	Percentage
Pesticides	92%
Drinking Water Threats	74%
Solid Waste	85%
Health Factors	Percentage
Asthma	73%
Low Birth Weight	74%
Cardiovascular	83%
Population Characteristics	Percentage
Poverty	86%
Unemployment	74%
Lack of Formal Education	93%



2014: State Department of Toxic Substances Control approves Toxic Dump Expansion

DTSC uses racially discriminatory Kings County permit process that included:

- English-only documents
- Spanish-speakers given half the time as English speakers to testify
- Huge police presence and intimidation, including police dogs
- Refuses to consider community vulnerability to pollution

