



## Center for Human Development

*Changing Lives, Transforming Communities*

October 21, 2016

Honorable Matt Rodriquez, Secretary  
California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812-2815

Dr. Lauren Zeise, Acting Director  
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA)  
P. O. Box 4010  
Sacramento, California 95812-4010

Dear Secretary Rodriquez and Director Zeise:

I am writing on behalf of my organization, Center for Human Development (CHD), to express deep concern about the current version of CalEnviroScreen (CESv3). While the tool identifies many disadvantaged communities throughout California, We, at CHD, were dismayed to see that our communities of Antioch, Bay Point, and portions Pittsburg and Richmond were not identified as such. As you may know, these communities have a disproportionately high poverty rate, poor nutrition, chronic diseases, including asthma, and are in desperate need of strategic investments, like those made possible by California's greenhouse gas reduction funds.

We encourage OEHHA to modify CalEnviroScreen 3.0, in order for it to become a fair tool that identifies *all* disadvantaged communities in California. According to the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and others, alternate methods can and should be used to more accurately identify disadvantaged communities. We encourage the State to consider an allocation methodology that takes into account regional differences and that accurately identifies communities like Antioch, Bay Point, and all neighborhoods in Pittsburg and Richmond, as disadvantaged. Specifically, we request that you remove the half-weighting of the environmental indicators that use half-weighting. This would be a small first step toward improving the situation.

We support the State's efforts to address climate change, especially to the extent that those efforts prioritize the unique needs of the most vulnerable communities so that limited resources can have the most impact.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Ochoa-Milanfar  
Operations Manager