

# Environmental Justice Advocacy at NRDC

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# Environmental Justice Movement -Defined

Addresses the statistical fact that people who live, work, and play in America's most polluted environments are disproportionately people of color and the poor

Recognizes that the "justice" part of EJ must be **defined by the affected communities**, and the long-term goal of any EJ campaign must be to achieve justice and **build power** and capacity on the ground



## Who I work alongside

Photo credit (left to right): [Communities for a Better Environment](#), [Centreville Citizens for Change](#) (by St. Louis Public Radio), Newark drinking water advocates (Shakima Thomas, Yvette Jordan, Sabre Bee)

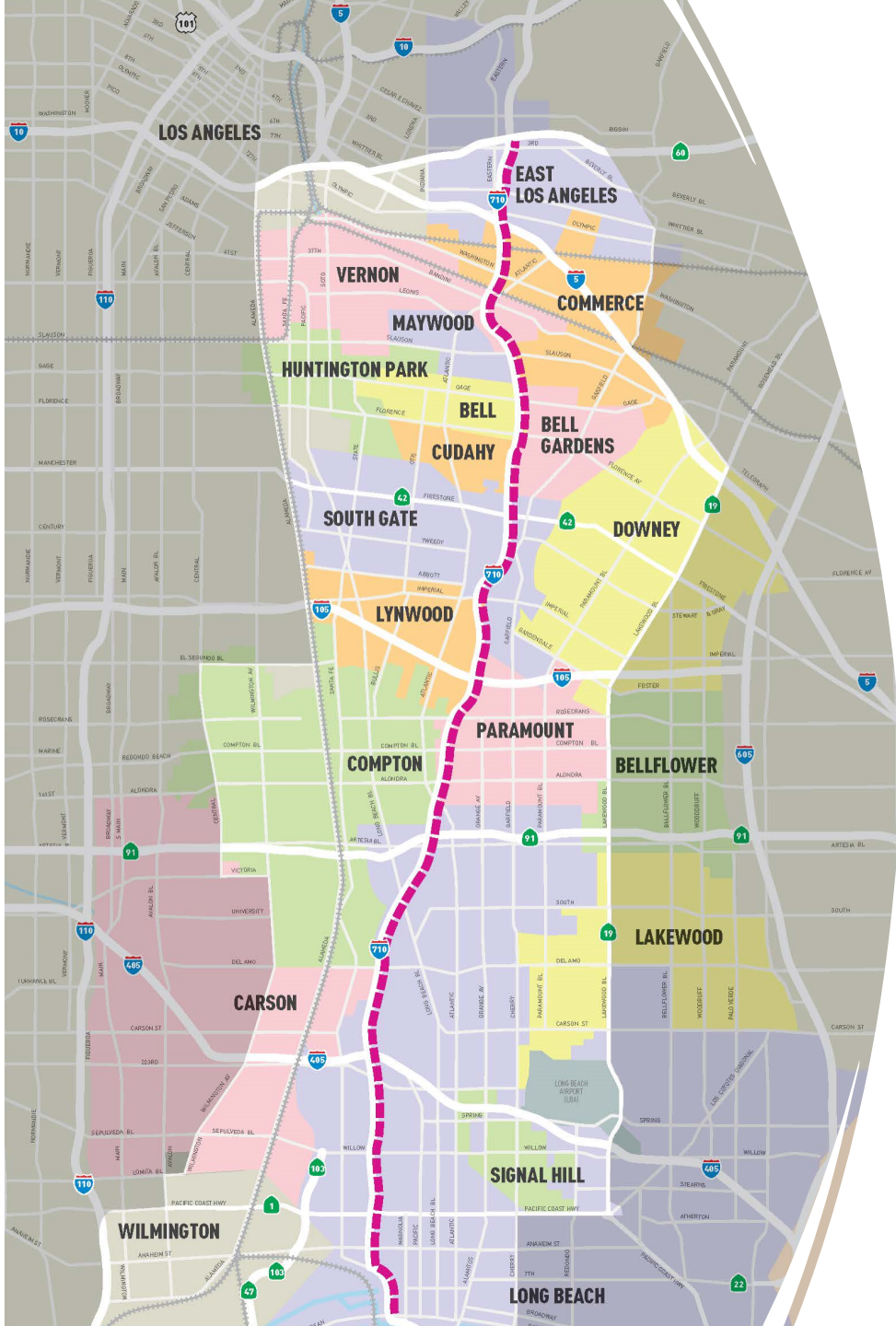
# Values -Jemez Principles

1. Be Inclusive
2. Emphasis on Bottom-up Organizing
3. Let People Speak for Themselves
4. Working Together in Solidarity and Mutuality
5. Build Just Relationships Among Ourselves
6. Commitment to Self-Transformation

ROOTEDNESS.  
BUILDING POWER.  
ACCOUNTABILITY.

# Rooted in Community

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# I-710 Freeway Expansion

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## Coalition Priorities

- Improved air quality through requiring mandatory zero-emission lanes or other mechanisms for ensuring healthier air.
- No displacement
- Targeted and local hire in conjunction with a Project Labor Agreement

**C.E.H.A.J.**  
coalition for environmental  
health and justice

# Building Capacity and Power

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# Movement Support Fund

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- MSF is intended to increase the capacity of frontline and community-based groups through small grants to these organizations. These grants help build significant goodwill and trust between NRDC staff members and local community-based organizers and concretely demonstrate NRDC's commitment to equitably funding the movement for climate and environmental justice.
- Over the past 4 years, the MSF has distributed 50 grants to partners in several states as well as internationally.



Source: Dani Garcia (NRDC), STAND-LA rally

# Accountability

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Centreville, IL is:

- The poorest city in Illinois;
- Approximately 96% Black;
- Served by barely functioning sewage pump stations since the 1980; resulting in raw sewage coming up into yards, homes, and streets; and
- Subject to severe flood events, including some that have required boat rescue.

# Systemic flooding and sewage crisis in Centreville, IL

Source: Centreville Citizens for Change

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