

MPNA-Social Science Work Through April 2022

- From December 2021 through April 2022 we observed, participated in, documented, and began analyzing the City Council's process of updating the Santa Ana City Plan, advocating for enhanced, specific commitments to address environmental injustice. Most importantly, MPNA argued for and won a commitment to establish an Office of Environmental Justice in the City of Santa Ana. The planned office will coordinate flows and uses of information pertinent to environmental injustice, and will involve a broader Environmental Justice Action Committee composed of residents, community leaders, and other stakeholders including UCI researchers. *Participation in this committee is an opportune way for AirUCI researchers – including interested graduate students – to participate directly in policy advocacy.*

-With student help, we continued characterization of cumulative environmental hazards and compounding environmental health vulnerabilities in Santa Ana.

-We began outreach to Santa Ana Schools district administrators and teachers (at Century HS and Circulos) as potential partners in environmental justice research, education, and advocacy. The response overall has been welcoming and positive. In consultation with Jim, we have worked toward an agreement to install AirUCI monitoring equipment at Century High School (in the industrial corridor); Katie and Leonel will meet again with Century administration and facilities staff today (4/25) to advance and perhaps finalize these plans.

-Through these and other activities, we have strengthened the role and enhanced the visibility of both MPNA and UCI research in environmental governance in Santa Ana. Alongside this project, MPNA has been awarded multiple new grants (CARB, EPA) and has recently hired Roxanne Dominguez to serve as the new GREEN-MPNA Deputy Director.

-Through these activities, we have refined our understanding of how the “Community Advisory Board” described in the DOJ project proposal needs to be organized and focused. By the end of May, we will have fully convened a 10-member Community Research Board (renamed as such to foreground the active research role members will play), including both High School Research Interns and Senior Research Fellows. All will receive small stipends from the grant budget. High School Research Interns will also participate in a parallel program designed especially for high school students (with participants from both Orange and LA counties). Community Research Board members will

- 1) serve as consultants on research design and development for EJ-related research in Santa Ana, prioritizing the work of the AirUCI-DOJ project for the coming 18 months.

Work will include identification of research problems/questions, identification of research sites and stakeholders, development of plans for research outreach.

- 2) be directly involved in research activities.

Work will include community air monitoring; traffic observations; stakeholder interviews; observation and analysis of governance processes and interactions, etc.

- 3) serve as science communicators.

Work will include presentations to varied stakeholder groups, including community members, schools, City County, California State Agencies, US agencies.

- 4) link EJ actors and issues in Santa Ana to EJ actors and issues in other Southern California communities, helping advance the theory and practice of next generation environmental governance.

Work will include hosting and participating in meetings (in Orange County and elsewhere) that bring together EJ stakeholders from different regions, working at different scales (neighborhood, city, county, state and national), in different kinds of organizations (community-based, schools, academic, government, etc).

MPNA-Social Science Work May-September 2022

- Finalize arrangements to install AirUCI monitoring equipment at a Santa Ana school – most likely Century High School.

-Launch Community Research Board and High School Research Intern Program. Operate the Community Research Board both to strengthen the DOJ-AirUCI research process and as an experimental conduit for moving science into environmental governance. The Community Research Board will thus serve as both a research partner and as a test bed for understanding actual and possible research-to-governance pathways.

-Continue characterization of stakeholders in environmental justice in Santa Ana, foregrounding a focus on schools but also including diverse community organizations in Santa Ana, government agencies, etc. This will include three rounds of qualitative interviewing and focus groups to understand how air pollution in Santa Ana is understood, prioritized, and seen as actionable among differently positioned stakeholders. It also will involve organizational profiles of relevant government agencies. See, for example:

<https://disaster-sts-network.org/content/california-environmental-reporting-agencies/essay>

– Work with video footage from lab tours to create educational materials (in English and Spanish) that explain the AirUCI-DOJ research project.

-Working collaboratively with MNPA CUAL (environmental justice steering committee), continue characterizing diverse, cumulative environmental hazards in Santa Ana then communicate findings to diverse stakeholders, including Santa Ana schools and City Council. This allows us to advance a key aim of the MPNA-Social Science component of the DOJ project: to characterize science to environmental governance pathways. Since UCI science for the DOJ project will cohere slowly throughout the project, the MPNA-Social Science team will also work with other scientific findings to observe how they travel through social formations and governance processes. See this example of visualizations we have developed to characterize Santa Ana schools as sites of environmental harm and advocacy:<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/435f7a0368e3408fbf519465c812dbf0>.

-Continue learning about justice-focused environmental governance work in other settings, reviewing and discussing resources like the following then feeding back to stakeholders in Santa Ana: <https://caleja.org/2017/09/sb-1000-toolkit-release/>

-Begin periodic community newsletter to convey new science and social science work to be brought into governance pathways.

-Redirect small component of Social Science budget to regain progress on work we were unable to do when the project formally launched in September 2021. Funds will support undergraduate and graduate researchers to work on

- 1) cumulative environmental hazard characterization for Santa Ana
- 2) pro-active communication to diverse audiences (community, teachers, students) concerning cumulative environmental hazards in Santa Ana.
- 3) stakeholder interviews with community members, teachers, and city officials
- 4) research and operational support for high school research intern program