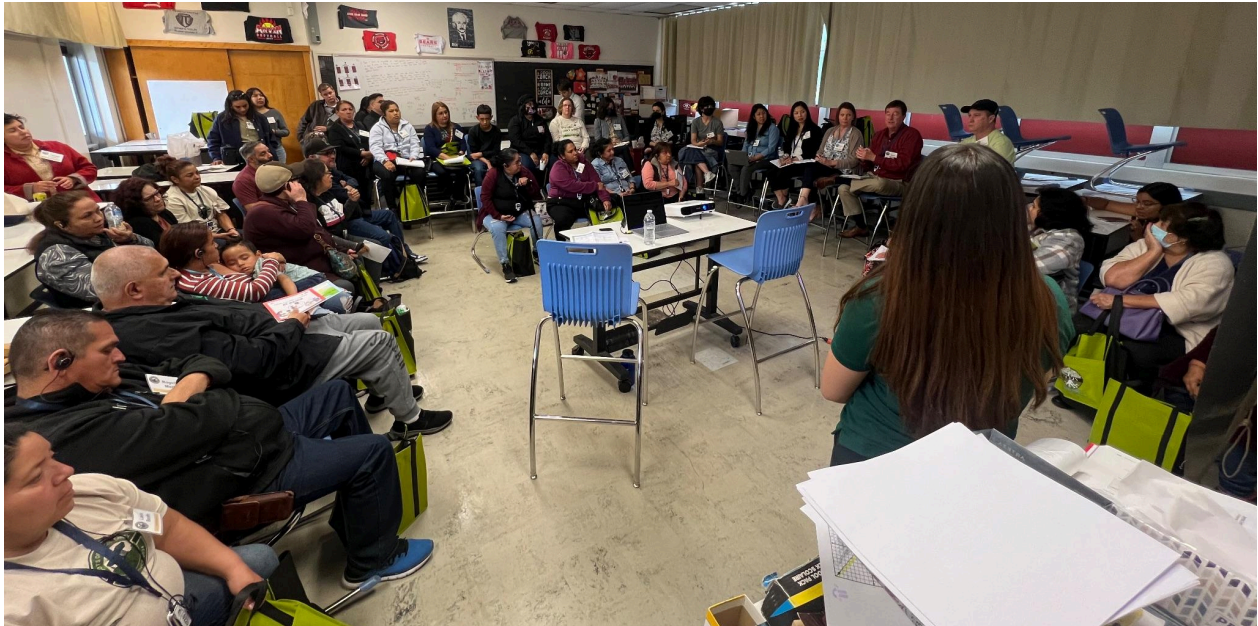




CENTRAL CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK

Notes: Roots of Resiliency Conference Seminar ***Residents and Regulators Discuss Carbon Capture and Storage*** Saturday, April 27th, 2024



Resident Comments/Questions

- Concerns about how trustworthy companies proposing CCS projects are. Continued negligence on behalf of oil and gas companies in the Valley in particular: How will they be held accountable by regulatory agencies?
- Why are CCS projects being proposed in rural and poor communities? Communities feel like a dumping ground.
- What will happen after carbon dioxide is stored for a certain number of years? Say after 50 years?
- Residents showed interest in learning about the permit process. How much CO₂ can companies store underground with one permit and for how long? Can permits be revoked after granting them?
- In the case of an emergency, who will pay for emergency services?
- Concerns about leaks and earthquakes: In case of an earthquake or leak how will the community be alerted? Who will monitor CCS sites? Will the monitoring data be available to the public?
- Concerns about trusting CCS companies to do their own monitoring.
- Should money and resources be spent on carbon capture and storage or on



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nature-based solutions like forest and land management?

- How will agencies ensure to the community that CCS is 100% safe?
- Plugging of oil wells: Can we trust that companies will correctly plug and abandon all wells before injecting CO₂? Can we be sure that all wells are plugged - what if the CO₂ moves away from where it's expected to be, especially when below an active oil field?
- Concerns about wells labeled "plugged" but are still leaking. How can residents be assured this will not happen when plugging wells for CCS?

Community Engagement Recommendations from Residents

- Residents would like to see community-based workshops hosted in and dedicated to the people who live closest to the projects;
- Concerns about oil and gas industry intimidation tactics during public meetings/workshops;
- Presentations and slides need to be made a lot less technical;
- Simultaneous interpretation in Spanish is a must, as is translation of materials;
- Work with local CBOs to help organize residents for meetings; and
- Zoom does not work for most residents.

CCEJN Recommendations Based on Discussion

- Recommended third party validation of well plugging and third-party or state-sponsored leak-detection monitoring on multiple fronts that is accessible to the public.
- For agencies to better engage with the community, we recommend in-person resident-focused meetings and workshops that are on weekdays in the evening with simultaneous Spanish interpretation and, if possible, food and childcare provided.
- Provide learning materials that are accessible, easy to read, and translated into Spanish during workshops instead of lengthy and technical powerpoints. CCEJN is happy to review materials ahead of time to advise on accessibility.