



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK**

2025 | Annual Report

Celebrating History

From our Executive Director

In 2025, as environmental justice funding shrank and political threats intensified, Central Valley communities faced increasing risks to their health, livelihoods, and safety. The Central California Environmental Justice Network's (CCEJN) 25 years of organizing were not just a milestone, they were a lifeline. We launched this anniversary year with a retreat that brought together board members and staff to reflect on how far we have come, and to imagine what is possible in the years ahead.

Since our last Strategic Plan (2019–2024), CCEJN has achieved meaningful growth and impact. We expanded our programs into Madera County, deepened youth leadership across all program areas, and strengthened the connection between environmental justice and climate change. We also made exciting strides in Sustainable Food Systems—an area not previously outlined in our strategic plan but one that has become central to our work.

At our January retreat, we took time to reflect on who we are today as an organization. This reflection led us to adopt a new mission statement that captures the heart of our work:

To uplift low-income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley by ensuring access to clean air, water, land, and food sovereignty.



Central California Environmental Justice Network board retreat, January 2026.

While 2025 was a year of celebration, it was also a year that tested our resilience. A new federal administration brought renewed threats to climate justice organizations, immigrants, and low-income communities of color. The loss of environmental justice funding, threats to nonprofit organizations, and enforcement actions that instilled fear in our communities underscored the urgency of our mission.

Even in the face of these challenges, CCEJN remained rooted in community power. We continued to advance programs that expand access to clean water, reduce air pollution, address extreme heat, promote nutritious food grown through sustainable practices, and improve working conditions for farmworkers.

Looking ahead, the challenges our communities face are growing but so is our resolve. The next chapter of CCEJN's work will require sustained partnerships to scale community-led solutions, defend hard-won protections, and build long-term resilience in the face of climate and economic disruptions.

As we close this milestone year, we are proud of what we have accomplished together. None of this work would be possible without the trust, partnership, and dedication of our funders, environmental justice allies, and the community members we serve.

With gratitude and determination,



Nayamin Martinez
Executive Director
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Reflecting on Our Work

During the development of the 2025–2027 CCEJN Strategic Plan, we refined our mission statement and revisited our vision statement, concluding that it continues to reflect our long-term aspirations:

To end environmental racism and achieve economic justice and health equity through sustainable regional solutions.

Empathy	We approach our work with empathy, listening to and understanding the lived experiences of communities most impacted by environmental injustices.
Justice	Environmental justice is at the heart of our mission. We fight to ensure that marginalized communities have equal protection from environmental harm and a voice in decision-making processes.
Respect	We respect the wisdom and resilience of communities of color, valuing their knowledge and cultural practices as essential to creating sustainable and just environmental solutions.
Equity	We advocate for equity by addressing environmental disparities and ensuring that communities most affected by pollution and climate change receive the resources and support they need to thrive.
Integrity	Our work is driven by integrity. We hold ourselves accountable to the communities we serve, maintaining transparency and trust in every action we take.
Resiliency	We empower communities to control their environmental futures by providing knowledge, skills, and resources to adapt and lead for justice.

Our Programs

We will carry out our mission, vision, and core values into the next phase to continue serving the communities we serve in the Central Valley across all of our programs. Our teams work across three branches of programmatic work: Air and Climate, Rural Justice, and Sustainable Food Systems.

Air and Climate

Rural Justice

Sustainable Food Systems

Air and Climate

Throughout 2025, our team has continued the vital work at the intersection of environmental justice and public health in California's Central Valley. We remained steadfast defenders of the California Environmental Quality Act, recognizing it as an essential tool for ensuring communities have a voice in decisions that affect their air, water, and health. Through hands-on fieldwork with methane monitors and FLIR cameras, we made invisible oil and gas leaks visible, documenting environmental violations and equipping residents with data to demand accountability from operators and regulators alike. Our efforts reflect our unwavering commitment to protecting the health and safety of the communities who bear a disproportionate burden of fossil fuel pollution, and our actions demonstrate that rigorous oversight and community-driven advocacy are essential to achieving environmental justice in regions long overlooked by policymakers.

AIR QUALITY

Why does this matter? Poor air quality continues to drive asthma, respiratory illness, and missed work and school days across the Central Valley, particularly in rural and farmworker communities with limited monitoring and enforcement.

Community Air Monitoring

Communities in the Central Valley face some of the worst air quality in the nation, yet many areas lack adequate monitoring to understand pollution levels and protect the public's health. CCEJN expanded our community-based air monitoring network into 4 counties to fill these gaps and provide residents with critical information about the air they breathe.

The Visualization of Ozone Monitoring project deployed six sensors across multiple locations to maximize community coverage, with initial data showing concerning ozone trends throughout the region. CCEJN also acquired monitors to track ozone in undermonitored areas, including communities like Lost Hills, Terra Bella, and McFarland. Toxic metals are linked to serious health problems, including cancer and developmental issues in children.

These monitors provide communities with near real-time data to understand their exposure and advocate for solutions. CCEJN also partnered with the US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Region 9 to monitor air quality impacts from confined animal facilities and winter fog, with results to be shared with valley organizations in 2026.



Protecting Communities from Pollution Sources

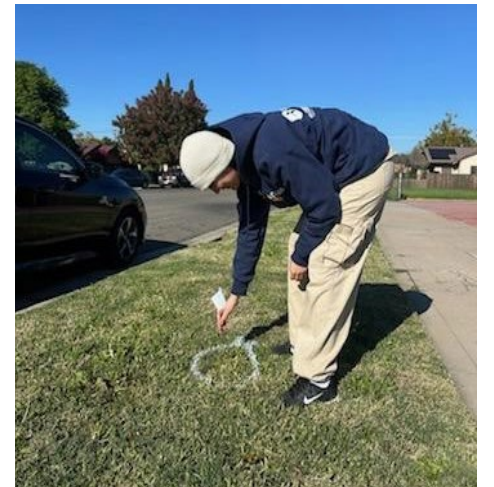
When CCEJN discovered that the Avenal Regional Landfill had been requesting to operate under higher temperatures without community knowledge, which can lead to serious health and safety concerns. Our work resulted in all seven oversight agencies holding a community meeting to address residents' concerns.

Westside Fresno communities demonstrated the power of organized residents in shaping major energy projects. Residents from several communities formed Comunidades de Westside and secured concrete wins: truck traffic rerouted away from schools and a \$104 million agreement for improved fire and emergency services. A similar fight was the Valley Clean Infrastructure Plan which proposes converting 136,000 acres of agricultural lands on the Westside of Fresno County for solar energy production, storage, and transmission. Residents from six communities formed a committee, engaging decision-makers to demand stronger protections for air quality, extreme heat, and community health.

Urban Greening

Trees reduce air pollution and combat extreme heat, critical health threats in South Fresno neighborhoods that often lack green space. Through the Air District's Urban Greening Program, CCEJN recruited two Climate Action Corps Fellows to expand the Adopt-A-Tree Program, providing free drought-tolerant trees to residents.

Fellows connected with residents at 13 community events and worked with Tree Fresno to ensure proper planting and care. They planted 63 trees throughout South Central Fresno, providing shade to cool neighbors, filtering air pollution, and creating healthier spaces for families. This work will continue throughout 2026.



IDENTIFYING VIOLATIONS AFFECTING NEIGHBORHOODS (IVAN)

Many Central Valley communities face ongoing environmental violations but lack direct access to regulators or don't know how to navigate the complaint process. The IVAN Network bridges this gap by receiving complaints, hosting monthly meetings with regulators across Fresno, Tulare, and Kern counties, and following up to ensure issues are properly addressed.

In 2025, CCEJN received 137 resident complaints across all three counties. In Kern County, residents reported concerning incidents, including a valve failure that released crude oil and caused a fire requiring evacuation of a neighboring horse rescue facility, and canvassed after methane gas leaks were detected by NASA satellites at levels that caused week-long headaches and nausea in the community.

In Lanare, where illegal dumping and burning are ongoing challenges reported through IVAN, CCEJN organized a community cleanup event with Fresno Equal Opportunities Commission's Local Conservation Corps and the Mattress Recycling Council. Partners collected over 4 tons of refuse, educated residents on health risks and how to file complaints, addressing immediate pollution and building long-term community capacity to protect their environment.

These interventions did more than document harm, they prevented repeat violations, forced regulatory response, and reduced ongoing exposure for families who had previously been ignored.

Oil and Gas

Kern County produces the majority of California's oil, yet communities living near wells and facilities face ongoing exposure to toxic emissions and methane leaks. CCEJN uses community science—including thermal imaging (FLIR) cameras and methane monitors—to find leaks that regulators miss and to document violations affecting residents' health.

The CCEJN FLIR team and a community member inspected Lost Hills following an EPA-listed super methane emitter event. Further support for the Voices in Solidarity Against Oil in Neighborhoods coalition partners included returning to Los Angeles to reinspect oil wells and storage tanks previously identified with leaks. The team confirmed ongoing leaks at a storage tank and oil well, and detected a new leak at a storage tank adjacent to residential homes. Journalists and Climate California have documented some inspections, highlighting how community-based organizations such as CCEJN are filling critical gaps in oversight.

Through fenceline inspections and the IVAN reporting network, CCEJN identified major gaps in oil and gas enforcement. This year, CCEJN produced the "[Passes to Pollute](#)" report, which includes a [white paper](#) and [fact sheet](#) on the heavy oil exemption, one of the biggest loopholes in oil and gas regulation affecting 68% of California's oil production.

CCEJN also contributed to the "Passes to Pollute" report, sharing findings with movement leaders globally. As part of local and statewide coalitions including Voices in Solidarity Against Oil in Neighborhoods and Last Chance Alliance, CCEJN continues its work to address public health threats from polluting infrastructure and advocate for stronger protections for its residents.



POLICY

CCEJN works to ensure that state policies protect community health and prioritize environmental justice. In 2025, that work spanned multiple critical issues including carbon capture, oil and gas setbacks, and landfill emissions.

CCEJN became a co-facilitator for a statewide carbon capture and storage coalition, providing testimony in Sacramento about pollution control technology standards. Through direct collaboration with authors of carbon transportation bills AB 881 and SB 614, CCEJN won amendments that created community protections. CCEJN also advocated for Cap-and-Trade reforms, particularly addressing how free allowances to polluters undermine emission reductions. CCEJN joined an environmental justice coalition working on the California Air Resources Board's (CARB) carbon capture rulemaking (SB 905), meeting with 11 CARB board members to advocate for strong regulations protecting communities.

CCEJN organized and participated in multiple advocacy efforts to protect funding for critical programs like the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund and to oppose subsidies to the oil and gas industry. When SB 237 and the Kern Oil and Gas Ordinance threatened to weaken protections, CCEJN produced fenceline data that educated decision-makers on the need to protect communities living near oil wells. CCEJN also engaged in CARB's Landfill Methane Regulation update by meeting bi-weekly with a coalition, attending workshops, and meeting with board members to strengthen rules that reduce harmful methane emissions from landfills. CCEJN also collaborated on developing community air protection programs in McFarland, expanding protections to include more Central Valley residents.

STATIONARY SOURCES OF AIR POLLUTION

Similar to the Darden Clean Energy Project, the Valley Clean Infrastructure Plan (VCIP) marks another push to convert agricultural lands on the Westside of Fresno County for solar energy production, storage, and transmission. The law, AB2661, authorizes Westlands Water District (Westlands) to construct and operate facilities to generate, store, and use and sell electricity from solar panels. It also requires Westlands to establish a community benefits agreement plan for the VCIP. Ultimately, VCIP plans to convert 136,000 acres of land owned by Westlands and privately owned farmland.

In collaboration with Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability and Building Healthy Communities, CCEJN submitted a comment letter outlining concerns regarding the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report by commenting on the inadequate analysis of impacts related to air quality, traffic, extreme heat, valley fever, water, and noise in surrounding communities. We also conducted outreach to inform the surrounding Westside communities regarding the Valley Clean Infrastructure plan's impact.

In response to the size and intensity of this project, residents from Five Points, Cantua Creek, El Porvenir, Kerman, San Joaquin, and Mendota banded together to join *Futuro Justo para el Oeste* (Futuro). Futuro participated in community meetings to learn more about the project and its impact, and shared their major concerns. They also engaged in meetings with mayors and Westlands Board Members to raise their concerns and demand stronger mitigation measures.

SUPPLEMENTARY ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT (SEP)

In collaboration with the Sonoma Technology Institute, the Fresno SEP Warehouse project focuses on analyzing emissions from indirect sources within the AB617 South Central Fresno boundary. Due to residents' growing concerns related to logistics development within the City of Fresno, SEP aims to understand how emissions related to construction for new warehouses, truck trips and transportation refrigeration units (TRUs) impact local emission.

To increase effectiveness for mitigating warehouse indirect source emissions, We made significant progress related to finalizing emissions scenarios and conducting community outreach. Ultimately, SEP will analyze 4 emissions related scenarios and 2 narrative scenarios. Responding to changes at the federal and state levels, scenarios were modified to guide CCEJN's policy strategy for indirect sources and maximizing the amount of emission reductions possible.



We also focused on engaging both the community and our ISR Advocate Partner group. Partner organizations offered critical feedback in the development of scenarios and in the emissions analysis. In partnership with Familias en Accion and Friends of Calwa, CCEJN staff conducted 2 community meetings in Southeast Fresno and Calwa to inform residents of the project and to gather information on how warehouses impact their everyday quality of life. CCEJN also led multiple community truck counting exercises to fill in key gaps in data related to warehouses that are smaller than 50,000 sq ft. For example, residents spent several mornings counting the number of small delivery vehicles, heavy duty trucks, and TRUs that would enter into various arehouses.

CCEJN staff consistently reviewed air permits publicly noticed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and provided comments on seven proposed permits. We also provided stationary source permitting insight to the Stanford Law School Environmental and Natural Resources Law & Policy Program through multiple meetings and feedback on presentations and white papers.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITY

Unidos por el Valle Central (United for the Central Valley)

CCEJN found that many communities shared the same burdens and created *Unidos por el Valle Central* (UVC), intending to bring community leaders together. UVC builds community power to address air pollution across the San Joaquin Valley, where rural communities face disproportionate environmental burdens. By training rural leaders in advocacy skills, UVC supports community engagement in public processes on air quality and climate policy.

This year, UVC members identified three priorities affecting community health: extreme heat, pesticides, and dust. Focusing on extreme heat—which causes heat-related illness and death in low-income communities—members identified key concerns: high energy costs, lack of shade and trees, and insufficient education on air conditioner maintenance.

During the Clean Water Center’s Action Day, UVC members shared their experiences with extreme heat and perspectives on the Cap-and-Trade climate credit, a key element to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with legislators. The year also included a mental health workshop addressing compassion fatigue and burnout, recognizing that sustained community work requires mutual support.

Youth Work

CA Youth vs. Big Oil (CAYVBO), a youth-led California movement demanding an end to fossil fuels and oil drilling, was rebuilt after many founding members graduated from college. CCEJN provided guidance and support to the CAYVBO coordination team, which developed a bi-weekly training series introducing young people to environmental justice organizing, building the next generation of community advocates.

The 3-month curriculum covered organizing fundamentals, environmental justice, narrative building, art for change, community actions, and social media. The series attracted 36 participants, mostly high school and college students, and two joined the coordination team to lead the 2026 training series.

And What Changed? By making pollution visible and understandable, CCEJN shifted power back to residents, equipping communities with evidence to demand enforcement, accountability, and stronger protections where regulators have long fallen short.

Rural Justice

Rural, low-income, and farmworker communities in the Central Valley face severe challenges from air and water pollution, pesticide exposure, and extreme heat. These factors exacerbate health disparities and threaten economic stability. Despite policies and regulations that have been established to protect these vulnerable communities, the exacerbation of climate change impacts –wildfires, extreme heat waves, and drought– have shown the need for comprehensive strategies that combine short-term solutions and policy changes. CCEJN launched initiatives that address immediate needs, while equipping residents of rural communities and farmworkers with tools and knowledge to advocate for systemic changes at local and state levels.

EXTREME HEAT

One of the major challenges facing farmworkers in the Central Valley is extreme heat, as temperatures commonly rise above 100 degrees in the summer. CCEJN staff provide farmworkers with information about the symptoms of heat-related illnesses, the precautions they should take, and their employers’ obligations to keep them safe. We also provide them with resources to help them build resilience. In 2023 and 2024, we distributed 350 Resilience Kits containing a neck fan, a cooling towel, and a thermal cup that keeps water cold for more than 24 hours. In 2025, we received a grant that allowed us to nearly triple our efforts, distributing 903 kits in Tulare, Fresno, Kings, and Madera counties.

The response from farmworkers has been very positive. They expressed their gratitude for the Resilience Kit and for the information they learned. For some farmworkers, it was the first time anyone had clearly explained the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and their right to protection. Several shared that the training helped them recognize warning signs they had previously ignored and their awareness has resulted in how they care for their health on the job.

FARMWORKERS POLICY

2025 marked a pivotal year for CCEJN as it strengthened its role as an advocate for farmworker and environmental justice. Through its continued coordination and support of the California Farmworker Coalition (CFC), CCEJN expanded its impact, deepened community leadership, and advanced worker-driven policy across California. The development of a more effective organizational structure to elevate farmworker-led advocacy led CFC to a major milestone by launching its first *Convocado de Trabajadores*, a gathering where farmworkers define the campaign priorities. CCEJN played a crucial role in bringing together 24 farmworkers representing five organizations and creating a space for workers to learn about the Coalition’s campaigns, including the Statewide Living Wage initiative and the Expert Navigator Program. Farmworkers received an overview of two proposed 2026 campaigns, evaluating the impact of both campaigns and ultimately supported advancing the Farm Labor Contractor Bond Increase, ensuring the Coalition’s agenda remains worker-led and reflective of frontline priorities.



Another example that illustrates the importance of CCEJN's advocacy and the continued need for stronger protections for agricultural workers was the release of the state audit to CalOsha that confirmed major shortcomings, including weak complaint investigations, insufficient worker interviews and sampling, and incomplete case evidence necessary to support citations. The auditor issued several recommendations directing CAL/OSHA to strengthen its process, ensure meaningful worker engagement, and develop a plan to implement reforms. This audit was the primary outcome of the first public hearing held at the Assembly Committee that focused only on farmworker issues.

PESTICIDES

CCEJN continues to educate farmworkers on how to be safe from pesticide exposure. Two hundred workers received pesticide safety training, resulting in 8 pesticide incident reports that are being investigated by Fresno and Madera Agricultural Commissioners. Residents living near fields treated with pesticides are also safer, because after years of fighting for their "Right to Know" before pesticides are applied, the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) launched SprayDays California, a program that allows any Californian to register to receive alerts before restrictive pesticides are applied.

This was a major victory for the environmental justice movement and CCEJN is proud of the role we played in this accomplishment. We educated over 200 residents of rural areas on how to sign up to receive this crucial information to protect their health. True to its spirit of promoting citizen science projects, CCEJN conducted the first of its kind pesticide monitoring project in South Central Fresno. In the samples collected, the cancer-causing pesticide, 1, 3-D was detected at higher concentrations than DPR monitoring stations in urban areas, even without recorded applications near the monitors. This data is being used as an advocacy tool to demand more stringent regulation.



WATER

In California, about 85% of communities statewide (34 million people) depend on groundwater as their main source of drinking water. In the San Joaquin Valley, everyone relies on groundwater as their main source of drinking water.

Our work included helping domestic well owners access safe and affordable drinking water. In the Fresno Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods reporting network, CCEJN identified 9 domestic well owners in Fresno County who lost access to their water resources.

In partnership with Self-Help Enterprises, CCEJN provided support to well owners to apply for the Emergency Services Program to receive hauled tanks and bottled water. Through community-driven advocacy, the domestic well community of Perry Colony secured state funding through the Safe and Affordable Fund for Equity and Resilience Program, to develop a feasibility study to identify long-term solutions to their failing wells.

We also increased access to safe drinking water in communities impacted with contaminated water. CCEJN identified 3 rural communities and 3 domestic well owners that were impacted with high exceedances of contamination. The contaminants identified included nitrates, 1,2,3-TCP, manganese, uranium and byproduct disinfectants. Two communities, McFarland and San Joaquin, are undergoing infrastructure projects to remediate contamination but, in the interim, residents have to buy water to drink and cook with. CCEJN provided support for residents with high nitrates to apply for interim drinking water services from Kings Water Alliance. To help residents in San Joaquin, McFarland and Five Points, CCEJN partnered with the GoFundMe foundation to install free reverse osmosis filters in 125 homes.



WILDFIRES

The forest fires that have affected the Central Valley had a severe impact on farmworkers, who spend long hours outdoors. An essential part of our work is to provide information that no other organization provides, the protective measures farmworkers should take, and their rights under the law.

In 2025, we provided information and N95 masks to 5,418 agricultural workers, and we helped 191 of them sign up to receive text alerts when air quality reaches high pollution levels. Many of the workers said they had no prior knowledge of this information and that they have changed their habits since receiving the alerts. The feedback we received from farmworkers indicates that they are using preventative measures such as wearing N95 masks when alerted and curbing their outdoor physical activity when it is not safe as a result of training received. Even some young farmworkers reflected that they connected symptoms experienced previously to the symptoms from wildfires smoke. CCEJN shared farmworker testimonials with legislators to ensure that the needs of agricultural workers are considered in public programs and policies. This is especially important at this time, when the state is allocating Proposition 4 resources to address the impact of wildfires.

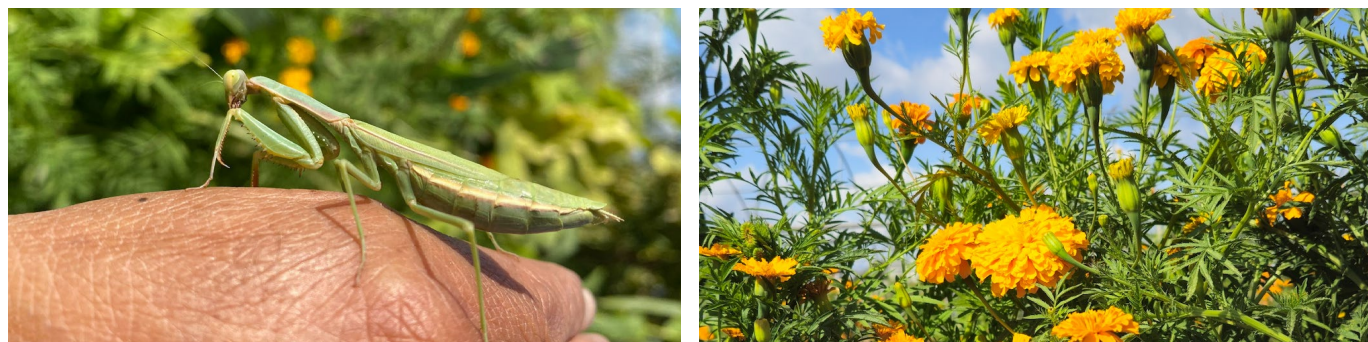
Sustainable Food Systems

Since 2022, CCEJN launched two community farms in California's Central Valley, making dreams become reality in urban and rural settings, and creating pathways for immigrant farmworkers to grow food for personal use while gaining practical experience in regenerative agriculture. Our long-term vision is to acquire land to ensure permanent land access and tenure for BIPOC farmers, addressing one of the most significant barriers to economic self-sufficiency in this community. This vision is increasingly urgent as agri-mechanization accelerates, threatening to displace farmworkers with drones and robots. CCEJN is equipping farmworkers to transition into farmers within this shifting agricultural landscape.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Since adding food sovereignty as a programmatic area within our agency, we expanded from one urban community garden in South West Fresno (*La Milpa*) to the rural community of Cantua Creek (*La Huerta*). Both of these community gardens assist farmworkers who want to cultivate pesticide-free crops for self-consumption and distribution in their community.

In 2025, we changed the name of our community gardens to incubator farms. The main reason behind the name change is that the initial dream, having spaces to farm, was fulfilled. Our next dream is to purchase a large farm and reduce the greatest barrier to farming, land access. In addition to providing monthly educational workshops for our farmers, they will receive information on forming a farmer-owned cooperative during the "incubation period" before purchasing our farm.



INCUBATOR FARMS

Both of our incubator farms were made possible thanks to the generosity of their respective hosts. The *La Milpa* farm is situated in the backyard of the Fresno Westside Seventh-Day Adventist Church and our *La Huerta* farm is located in the back of Cantua Creek Elementary School. Our incubator farms are a space where farmers learn regenerative farming practices, effectively reducing their exposure to pesticides.

Additionally, the farms have other positive impacts on the health and well-being of those who participate in its activities. Farmers are able to grow medicinal plants not readily available at grocery stores and they consume healthier food. Farming in a small space also promotes social interaction, creating bonds of friendship and solidarity among community members. For many of our farmers, going to the farms is like therapy, as being outdoors and cultivating their crops relieves their stress. The farms are a pleasant and safe place for the participants.

La Milpa's Achievements in 2025

- Participation of 20 active members, some of whom have their own parcels, while others share their space with others
- Access to equipment - we acquired our own tractor, which made the composting work easier
- In partnership with UC Merced, the creation of 10,233 pounds of compost, effectively reducing over 4.5 tons of waste that would end up in landfills
- Sales experience - farmers started "mercaditos" (small, pop-up markets) where they sold part of their harvest and *cempasuchil* flowers
- Greater visibility - our garden was visited by 304 people seeking inspiration to start similar projects and several organizations and conferences that included the California Community Land Trust's Annual Conference Farm Tour, UC Merced's SEED Farm Tour, California Farmers Justice Collaborative's 8th Annual Rural Justice Summit, and the Irvine Foundation Board



La Huerta's Achievements in 2025:

- Expanding the farms to 25 plots and 6 garden boxes for the farmers and 4 parcels for students
- Participation of 32 families, including older adults, for whom we adapted some planters so they can garden without having to constantly bend over
- Began composting through a partnership with UC Merced and created 2,943 pounds of compost, effectively reducing over 1 ton of waste that would end up in landfills
- An extremely productive harvest on land that was made fertile by first introducing cover crops
- Access to equipment: we acquired our own tractor, which made the composting work easier
- Participation in La Milpa's Cycle of Life event and their *mercadito*, where product sales constituted the first fundraiser



FUTURE PLANS

Since both of our incubator farms participated in sales events, we plan to grow this activity in the years to come. Both farms will participate in more *mercaditos* and either [Community-Supported Agriculture \(CSA\)](#) box sales, or farmers markets. These events will be part of the training that will take place as we begin the formation of our future cooperative.



Scan the QR code to fill out a CSA Box Interest Form!

The ongoing maintenance of both gardens has been one of the key challenges, mainly because they are on loan from the church and the school and we have many rules to follow. The greatest of these is what days and times farmers can cultivate. This is a challenge that has fueled our fundraising to purchase our own farm and we plan to launch a capital campaign starting in 2026.

Agricultural Land Conservation

The incubator farms are our symbol of self-sufficiency and environmental protection. In addition to economic justice, CCEJN is committed to conserving agricultural land and mitigating climate change through regenerative farming practices. We were fortunate to obtain funding to conduct research and expand organizational capacity to develop agricultural conservation acquisition projects, build partnerships with vision-aligned land trusts to identify landowners willing to sell to socially disadvantaged farmers, and employ equity and access learning hubs and strategies.

Our goal is to purchase our own farm within a couple of years and conserve its use solely for agriculture in perpetuity through conservation easements.

Securing land ownership is not simply a programmatic goal, it is a generational investment in economic stability, food sovereignty, and climate resilience or small, BIPOC farmers in the Central Valley.



Final Remarks

We close this inaugural annual report with deep gratitude to the funders who believe in the importance of our work, the partners who strengthen our advocacy and policy efforts, the Board members who provide guidance, the dedicated staff who bring our mission to life, and the community residents who inspire and ground our work.

STAY IN CONTACT!

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