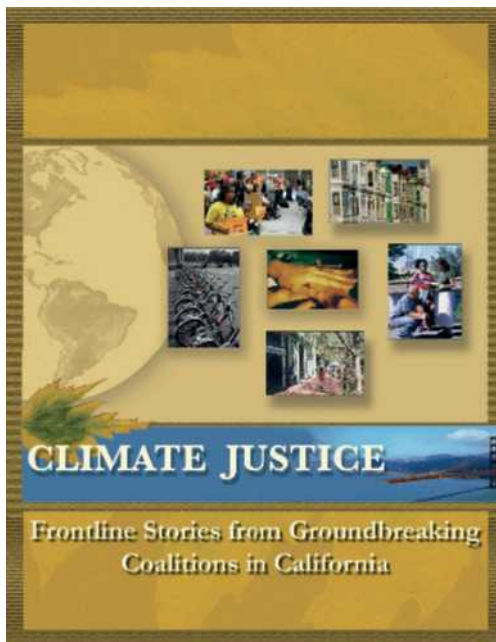


# CLIMATE JUSTICE

## Frontline Stories from Groundbreaking Coalitions In California



Edited by

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With Breakthrough Communities Team

Foreword by Carl Anthony

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**Breakthrough Communities Learning Action Project**  
**Earth House Center**  
**Oakland CA**

**Mission**

Breakthrough Communities builds multi-racial and multi-class leadership for sustainable metropolitan communities in California, the United States and globally. We provide education, training and multimedia communication tools.

Breakthrough Communities demonstrates that a viable economy, a healthy environment and social equity are mutually reinforcing and provide the framework for planning and resource allocation to achieve healthy, just and sustainable communities.

**Support**

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Material produced in this manuscript includes original contributions by coalition partners, as well as original work by Breakthrough Communities team. This draft manuscript has been compiled in preparation for future distribution across a variety of platforms for the intention of strengthening the work of the coalition partners featured here.

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## Dedication

“History is governed by those overarching movements that give shape and meaning to life by relating the human venture to the larger destinies of the universe... The Great Work of a people or era is the creating of such an overarching movement... This generation’s Great Work is the transformative effort to change human-Earth relations from disruptive and destructive to mutually enhancing and beneficial.”

— Thomas Berry, *The Great Work: Our Way into the Future*, 1999

This work is dedicated to civil rights and transportation justice advocates of the past on whose shoulders we stand, to climate justice advocates today in all regions of California and throughout the world, and to future generations of the human-Earth community who will benefit from our work.

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## The Spirit and Process of Coalition Building



The Oakland Mural Project embodies the spirit and process of coalition-building, an endeavor that requires individuals to learn to work together over time. Great mural projects across many cultures commemorate moments in history, or mark the site of important activities or struggles. Murals have consistently been the people's art form when the institutional art world speaks for and to the upper classes. The San Francisco Bay Area has an abundance of mural projects, like the defiantly colorful Women's Building in San Francisco's Mission District or the controversial Socialist Realist mural in North Beach, as well as an increasingly impressive body of work in the East Bay. There is no finer example of this than the Oakland Mural Project (OMP), initiated and created under the leadership of Amana Harris and the Attitudinal Healing Center (AHC), co-founded by Aesha and Kokomon Clottey.



The mission of the Oakland Super Heroes Mural Project is to "cultivate, educate and engage youth in community issues and solutions through the power of public art." OMP aims to reduce blight, increase neighborhood safety, lift community morale, provide youth training and empowerment, stimulate local job creation, and build community. The social nature of the mural process allows a young collaborator to grow--to define him or herself as a valuable member of the larger community. The process of creating a mural is an embodiment of coalition-building. It demands a shared vision, to harness and amplify individual creativity

We are honored and grateful to feature the work of OMP in this book.



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# Foreword

**by Carl Anthony**

In the face of global crisis and in response to California's leadership in the field of global warming, climate justice advocates and organizations in California are writing a new chapter in the struggle for social justice.

## **The Earth's Climate Crisis**

We are living at a critical moment in planetary evolution. After four hundred generations, the period of the Earth's stable climate is ending. The evidence of this change is now widely documented: melting polar ice caps, sea level rise, extreme weather events and widespread flooding and drought.

## **Why this Matters**

There is a consensus among scientists that the heating up of the atmosphere is caused by human economic activity. Shifts in the Earth's climate during the past 150 years have been caused by the growth in human populations and a rapidly expanding human economy that is dependent on fossil fuels.

According to the United Nations Population Fund, the human population grew from 1.6 billion to over 6 billion in the 20th century. During the same period, there was a 12-fold increase of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Developed countries, however, cause the lion's share of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The United States, about 5% of the world's population, contributes 25% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Over-reliance on fossil fuels in industry and consumption is leading to the build up of carbon dioxide in the thin layer of air essential to breathing and photosynthesis. Climate change will likely have an enormous impact on society, affecting infrastructure, transportation, energy, food and water supplies.

Perhaps most importantly, the destruction of forests, leading to erosion of soils, desertification, pollution of waterways, decreased biodiversity and loss of habitat, is undermining the Earth's capacity to absorb excess greenhouse gases. If the atmosphere heats up beyond a certain point, it will cause irreversible damage to the life support system of the planet, threatening the existence of all species.

## **Climate Justice**

The runaway economy itself is in crisis, driven by the myopic short-term goals of the world's largest corporations in pursuit of private profit. The majority of the world's people are living in poverty, being uprooted and forced away from the land and into the cities in search of livelihoods. Already at risk, these populations are placed in greater danger by the current global climate crises. In response, a global climate justice movement is emerging, demanding fairness in the distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change processes.

## **Historical Context for the Current Work in California**

With a population of 38 million people, the state is home to many racial and ethnic communities. California also has a rich diversity of ecological regions including desert, Mediterranean eco-regions, forested mountains and coastal forests.

By 2012, California became the twelfth-largest economy in the world, enhanced by its location on the expanding trade and tourism of the Pacific Rim, its leadership in applications of technology, and its development

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of new goods and services. Many of these enterprises are located in suburban jurisdictions without public transportation, accessible only by automobile.

The majority of California's populations live in five metropolitan regions: the Central Valley, Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Diego, and the San Francisco Bay Area. Together, these regions account for about 95% of greenhouse gas emissions from automobiles and light trucks. Each of these regions has a substantial population of communities of color.

## **The State of California and Climate Legislation**

Within the United States, California has taken the lead in addressing global warming. In 2006, the California legislature passed the landmark Assembly Bill Global Warming Solutions Act (AB2) legally binding the State to reduce its Green House Gas Emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This landmark legislation was followed by Senate Bill 375, The Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375), authored by Darrell Steinberg.

The California Air Resources Board documented that 30% of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions come from automobiles. SB 375 requires the state's eighteen Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's), which control billions of dollars of public moneys, to develop and implement plans to achieve the 1990 reduction targets by focusing on transportation and land use planning to reduce Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT).

## **The San Francisco Bay Area**

AB 32 and SB 375 set regional targets for reduction through coordinated transportation and land use planning in the San Francisco Bay Area. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) were responsible for implementing SB 375 in the San Francisco Bay Area, a region of 9 counties, 98 municipal jurisdictions, and a population of 7 million. Over a three-year period, from 2010-2013, MTC and ABAG were charged with drafting a Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **The Story of the Six Big Wins Coalition**

The Six Big Wins Coalition represents an unprecedented breakthrough in regional equity and climate justice organizing. And this volume, *Climate Justice*, contains invaluable new knowledge they have generated. Readers will be astonished by the unprecedented richness and diversity of the participating networks whose stories are told herein. Their profound and far-reaching efforts are preparing fertile ground for the development and refinement of new public policies.

Statewide university partners are reporting in from their regions, while we took a deep dive into the San Francisco Bay Area. In the Six Big Wins sections. A series of case studies of each Win network, told in the voices of those activists who are doing the work.

Our world is changing. By 2042, the majority of residents in the United States will be people of color. Our laws are changing to deal with the new challenges of climate change. The old story of the rugged individualist extracting riches from nature and profiting from the labor of underpaid workers is losing its appeal. An emerging new story recognizes the dignity and worth of all beings and celebrates the power of collaborative effort to solve challenging problems.

The formation of the coalition we call the Six Big Wins is the culmination of 25 years of effort laying the foundation for a regional equity movement in the San Francisco Bay Area—a movement that is intergenerational, multiracial and inclusive.

Our work on regional equity began with Urban Habitat, Earth Island Institute, and California Legal Assistance, in 1989. The Bay Area Council and Policy Link joined this effort in the late 1990s. Based on my role in these efforts, I received an invitation in 2001 from the Ford Foundation to lead its Sustainable Metropolitan

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Communities Initiative. Dr. Paloma Pavel joined me at Ford as a consultant on strategic planning and communication. She coordinated our national learning network in twelve regions. Dr. Pavel is the visionary and editor of this book—and an earlier one, *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis*, which documents our work at Ford and highlights the accomplishments of grassroots organizers, labor groups, religious groups and policy makers across the country as they scaled up from work in their neighborhoods and workplaces to the level of metropolitan policy. This documentation has proven very useful and has taken organizing and policy making to a new level. When I returned to the Bay Area from Ford, Paloma Pavel and I formed Breakthrough Communities, a project of Earth House formed to support development of multiracial leadership for sustainable, socially just, communities in California and the nation.

On April 28, 2010, immediately after the first gathering of Regional Advisory Working Group (RAWG) of Plan Bay Area, twenty-six community-based social advocacy groups who had participated in that gathering, met to consider the best way to respond to the challenge presented by SB 375.

Breakthrough Communities presented a memo suggesting that social justice organizations, while maintaining their individual identity, take advantage of the opportunity to create a new way of working together. This recommendation was well received. The group began meeting regularly with officials from the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and independently over the summer.

The goals and focus of the participating organizations fell into six general areas, from which the name Six Big Wins emerged—healthy and safe communities, local transit service, affordable housing, investment without displacement, economic opportunity and community power. All these movements are deeply rooted in our communities. Many people and organizations have participated in these efforts, some for several decades.

The memorandum presented at the meeting was inspired by a theory of change developed by Stanford professor Doug McAdam and his colleagues. Having studied the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's and compared it with other notable social movements around the world, McAdam observed that successful social movements begin with the presence of political opportunity. Success is enhanced by relatively autonomous mobilizing structures within the affected communities and movement leadership that frames the issues so that the mobilizing structures can take full advantage of the opportunity.

SB 375 presented a major political opportunity in the ground breaking enactment in 2008 of California Senate Bill 375, the Climate Protection Act, which aims to reorganize transportation and land use throughout the state, setting targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This legislation could have disastrous results in the lives of California's low-income communities, putting them at risk of further displacement and increased isolation from economic and educational opportunities. Could we organize to represent the interests of those communities and mobilize for greater inclusion? If we were not at the table to shape the rules, SB 375 could exacerbate deeply rooted social inequalities in transportation, housing, health, and economic opportunity.

Mobilizing structures within our communities had existed for twenty years or more. The question was how could a new coalition bring the hard won knowledge from these movements to bear on the new strategic opportunity of SB 375? As the participants worked together and built mutual respect and trust, they made conscious decisions to share their knowledge and create a coalition that formed networks throughout ABAG's nine-county region, framing new issues like the need to adapt to climate change with key organizing ideas such as investment without displacement.

The Breakthrough Communities memo suggested that the new coalition develop a rationale for working together on SB 375 and consider how best to organize working groups and create a region-wide living network to coordinate their activities. It pointed out that the member groups would need to build on a knowledge base that already existed in our communities and set goals of planning and organizing for regional equity. Included in this

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memo were the core principles of a model of change called “The Compass for Transformative Leadership.” See Resources section for founding memo.

Over the summer of 2010, the social justice groups met often, debating the proposal laid out in the original memo, along with other ideas. In October 2010 our proposal was ratified at a well-attended community meeting.

The Six Big Wins emerged as a coalition of 45 social justice advocacy groups led by a Coordinating Committee. Administration of day-to-day activities was performed by Parisa Fatehi of Public Advocates and Lindsay Imai of Urban Habitat. To build a strong political base, Breakthrough Communities worked to bring the organizing group Genesis, an affiliate of the Gamaliel Foundation, into the heart of the policy making process. We built an early bridge for the public health groups to take part in transportation and land use planning, coached coalition members to work more closely and effectively with elected officials, and took part in statewide planning efforts to complement our work in the Bay Area.

This book presents the highlights of what the Six Big Wins Coalition accomplished and a brief summary of our planning efforts. After many letter writing campaigns, power analyses, turn-out sessions for public meetings, a highlight of the process came when we introduced the Equity, Environment and Jobs scenario into the regional planning debate. This was a major accomplishment. Social justice advocates had never before created a unified transportation and land use plan for achieving equity throughout the nine-county region. Our scenario called for greater investment in operating local transit services, increased allocation of affordable housing in transit-connected suburban communities of opportunity, and a regional grant program creating incentives for local cities to zone for affordable housing and implement protections against displacement.

At first, ABAG and MTC did not want to accept our plan, but our advocacy and our communications with sympathetic members of their planning team culminated in their decision to include the Equity, Environment, and Jobs (EEJ) scenario in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the draft plan. The EEJ scenario was an alternative to a plan that emphasized the priorities of powerful and entrenched suburban constituencies.

The review of the draft plan and the Environmental Impact Report in March 2013 demonstrated that the Equity, Environment, and Jobs alternative would best achieve the region’s adopted performance measures relative to public health, air quality, displacement, and traffic. In fact the EIR identified the Equity, Environment and Jobs scenario as the “environmentally superior” alternative. The agencies’ own analyses demonstrated that a community-generated plan that prioritizes the most pressing needs of disadvantaged communities serves the entire region better than a “suburban alternative” that privileges more powerful constituents.

In the end, the “suburban alternative” of the regional plan was modified to include three substantial amendments that Six Wins members drafted and brought to their champions on the board. After the dust settled, after three long years of organizing and citizen engagement, the effect of these final amendments were summarized by two words in a memo from Bob Allen of Urban Habitat to the Six Wins Coalition. “We won.”

Contemporaneous to our work in the Bay Area, Breakthrough Communities and the Gamaliel Foundation conducted a series of statewide pilot workshops on SB 375 with the Building Healthy Communities sites in Sacramento and San Diego, as well as communities of concern in Sonoma. We were struck by the value of cross-learning between regions, and so we proposed statewide planning efforts to complement our work in the Bay Area.

In the fall of 2011, community-based groups met with four organizations from the Six Wins Coalition and requested support in regional organizing for SB 375, leading to the formation of the California Coalition for Just and Sustainable Communities (CCJSC). The Coalition on Regional Equity in Sacramento (CORE), California Rural Legal Assistance in the Central Valley, Physicians for Social Responsibility in Los Angeles, and Justice Overcoming Boundaries (JOB), an affiliate of the Gamaliel Foundation, in San Diego, linked up with Urban Habitat, Policylink, Public Advocates, and Breakthrough Communities, while the Center for Regional Change at

UC Davis provided technical assistance. Each of these community groups had made significant progress in developing policies and civic engagement in the regions where they were working. Although it was late in the first round of the SB 375 process, building civic participation for future rounds seemed well worth the effort. This statewide process was not yet funded; nevertheless the progress made in these regions is included in this report.

I hope that readers will seize the opportunity to join this coalition-building effort, led by communities of color and their allies, in growing a genuine movement for sustainability—environmental protection, economic prosperity and social justice. We need to continue building new relationships for the long haul, not only intra- and inter-regionally, but even across international boundaries as globalization processes tie us all to the problematic side-effects of manufacturing in India, China, Brazil, and other industrializing nations.

This book presents a rare opportunity to see and understand how grassroots groups from historically disenfranchised communities perceived the challenge of AB 32 and SB 375 and how they responded and rose to the challenge, bringing about breakthroughs in public policy. The work undertaken by individuals and groups on the front lines, over a three-year period is recounted in their own voices—with passion and enthusiasm, with the knowledge and authority of communities that have been working collaboratively on a range of issues for a long time.

I am delighted to see these stories presented to the world. We need a new story for our time—a story that features compassion, collaboration and inclusivity. The work shared in this volume is a valuable contribution to that new story.



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## Conclusion And Recommendations

Our most important conclusion in this work is that we can advance social equity while reducing greenhouse gasses throughout the region. All things being equal, planning based on seeking social equity leads to greater reduction in greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gas emissions, land use, transportation and social justice outcomes are linked and need to be addressed together.

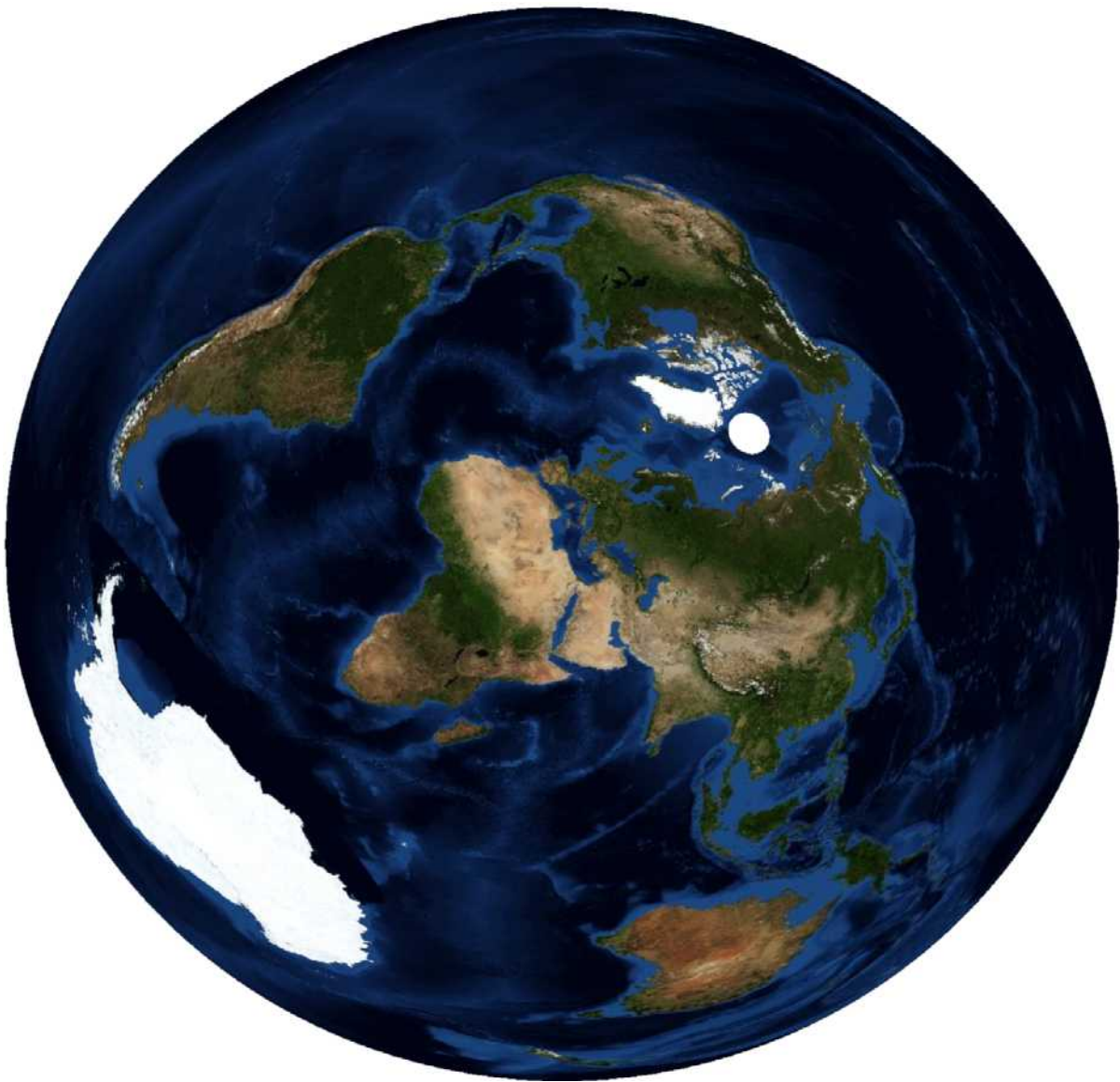
### Next Steps

We need to get the word out. Activists in regions throughout California can see that the gains achieved in the Bay Area are common to their own struggles. We need an investment of time, energy and support in all California regions to stimulate a flowering of this commitment.

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# Introduction and Global Context

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# A Big Win For The Six Wins Coalition

by M. Paloma Pavel

It is 5 o'clock in the morning—I am awakened by the Amtrak train sounding its horn along the Richmond tracks, our local capillary in a national system of passenger and goods circulation. A long awaited day—I barely slept knowing months of work hang on the decision forthcoming from tonight's meeting. Nearly \$290 billion in transportation investments are on the table. Which future will win?

Peering out my window in the Richmond Hills, through the early morning light I can now trace the outline of those familiar San Francisco landmarks—Mt. Tam in the distance, the orange Golden Gate Bridge. But our community's struggles and triumphs are also inscribed in this landscape—night flares from the Chevron Refinery, San Quentin death row protests, Angel Island—location of the Chinese internment, Alcatraz—an island, a prison, a reclamation by First Nation peoples, a tourist destination. The cargo cranes of San Francisco and Oakland ports—like huge birds—mark the location of goods shipment, union strikes, and dirty diesel protests. The bridge between Marin and Richmond, one of many landmarks of spatial apartheid—a connection in steel girders, a division in opportunity, race and class.

Our geography is likewise marked by transformation, innovation, and restoration—the Marin Headlands unmarred by expensive condos, commons in the shell of military outposts. Regeneration after fires in the Oakland Hills, rebuilding after the Loma Prieta Earthquake.

I hear the voices of the many peoples, rivers of them converging in the San Francisco Bay Area. First, Ohlone peoples with reed boats shuttling across the Bay, vast storehouses of fish and game. Then, a destination for immigrants and outsiders seeking a living in the extraction of gold. Then the Richmond shipyards exploding with economic activity during the war effort, Rosie the Riveter, a diversity of race, gender and class making new roots in this land of opportunity. The rivers of humanity are shifting, as the Bay Area becomes a region with a majority “minorities,” new patterns of power emerging—inner city displacement and the suburbanization of poverty. If this Bay could speak...

Now the phone is ringing, a whirlwind day—coalition members making outreach calls, strategy conference calls, preparation of handouts, updates to the agenda, reminders sent to our Six Win networks and to the larger community. We go over talking points, share strategy on our presentations—we will have three minutes each.



We gather in Downtown Oakland—near the Metro Center, which has become so familiar. Sandwiched between Oakland's Chinatown, Lake Merritt and Laney College, it is a transit oriented development site, and a future priority development area. Our coalition members are arriving on foot, on bikes on BART on buses, in cars. Tonight's meeting has been moved

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to a conference room in the Marriott to accommodate the large numbers expected.

**This is the night**—the culmination of months of negotiation, mobilization, attention to mind-numbing details. There is so much at stake. Looking around the room at the sea of familiar faces, I consider the transformative journey we have shared. We have made mistakes with each other; there has been misunderstanding, outrage and grief. We have learned better ways to communicate, we have found compromises and wordsmithing. We have struggled together to cultivate the unity we present here tonight.

**It is 6pm.** The agenda is long, and our vote may not come up for several hours. Dozens of activist groups have gathered. Together, we prepare for the long process. Our coalition members leave to eat in shifts, go home to feed their families and return to keep our presence continuous and strong—the latest in many brave strategies we have developed to stretch beyond our limits of time and money. We are learning how to hear and support each other's issues—how to create a larger whole that includes each of our self-interests, but generates something greater than their sum. We can push our creativity and our endurance further because we have built this trust with one other.

We hold up our orange signs- “We support an Equity Scenario” in Times New Roman on Xerox paper. This shared message, a simple expression of solidarity and unity across our various organizations and sectors, is a complex and phenomenal achievement in itself. Encoded within this simple sign is months of technical work, generating regional transportation and land use modeling from real community values.

**It is 9:40pm. The room is thick with sweat and sharp with raw nerves.** We have been in this same room, and others just like it dozens of times over the past months, watchdogging the process, inserting our comments, our objections and recommendations. But this time is different. This time, we have translated our equity voice into the system's native language. We have crafted a transportation-modeling scenario that could stand the scrutiny of the official professional and technical process—the EEJ (Equity, Environment, and Jobs) scenario.

**The critical motion comes at 10pm.** Supervisor John Gioia takes the floor, proposes that MTC and ABAG will evaluate our community-driven EEJ scenario in the Environmental Impact Report, alongside four of the five official scenarios. This would mean that one of the official staff-generated scenarios would be dropped to make room for this interloper, the EEJ.

How far have we traveled to be here with this proposal? It has been a long learning journey—VMT, GHG, ABAG, MTC—so much alphabet soup at the beginning. We have grown together, sharing the tools each of our organizations has developed over the years—Power Analysis, one-on-ones, all day strategic planning retreats, education and advocacy days—teams of residents bringing our message to board members in all nine counties. All of this grounded in a foundation of deep listening—to our own deep longings, to one another, to electeds and staffers--because we understand our fundamental interdependence. To make One Bay Area for all, we need to work together.

And now here we are at this critical moment, waiting to see how much community groups can drive the discourse in an ambiguous public participation process, whether a government structure can be flexible enough to withstand the changing paradigm. Have we poured our hopes and dreams into a process that can not carry them? Or will we be able to squeeze our extravagant longing into the cracks of a rigid bureaucratic system?

Will those long nights and endless meetings have been worth it?

**The motion is seconded.** We wait. The long struggle—how far we have come. The vote is called, the tension mounts, the votes are tallied. Can it be? Impossible—

**The result is unanimous.** MTC and ABAG will include the EEJ scenario.

For a moment, we are speechless. This is barely comprehensible, when only a few months before we had felt ourselves barely tolerated, an irritation to the process. Back when we were asking basic questions, playing catch

up, finding ourselves enveloped in bureaucratic exploration. Looking at the agency members behind their microphones, it is clear that they don't know what this is supposed to be either. We are all navigating in the dark.

What does 290 billion dollars look like on a table? How does a community weigh in on its future? Wider highways to suburban communities? Bart connectors for wealthy airport travelers with no stops for underprivileged neighborhoods? ...We are now at the table and proposing, not just responding, not just saying no, but reaching across the alphabet soup, across the maze of protocol and procedure and land use planning to make our voices heard.

A watershed moment for community organizing—The Six Wins campaign. We pour into the streets—it is like world cup soccer—screaming and yelling. We could not know at this moment that our exuberance would foreshadow yet another unprecedented outcome. At this point it is enough that we are in the mix, have earned a place at the table. Months later, after the scenarios were tested, we would be astonished to learn that the EEJ scenario outperformed the other scenarios on the reduction of GHG emissions. Now, the choice of including us has taken deep root. There is no going back.



What lies ahead? We are regrouping, gulping for fresh air and nourishment as we set our sights on the next horizon—implementation of this round, planning for the next round of transportation planning, building community resilience, and preparing for the next California-legislated program coming down the track...

We have unquestionably gained new skills, and we are passing them on. High School youth participated in this round, and they are teaching these skills to friends and colleagues who may grow to become our allies in the next round. As we interviewed Devilla Ervin at West Oakland Middle School, he spoke poignantly of his own transformation in this process; in brief- *I did not know what this climate change stuff and SB 375 was all about. I then became a spokesperson. I learned to interview my neighbors and family. Now I am a teacher and beginning to rise*

*up the next generation.* Devilla is remarkable—eighteen years old. His life is forever changed by the leadership he developed working in the Six Wins campaign with the New Voices Are Rising project, where he forged an understanding of displacement of the African American community and a commitment to his own community in West Oakland. His story, and the stories of thirty others, form the core of this book: A collection of stories and reports from the frontlines, outlining successful strategies in coalition-building, and the context underlying it all.

# Purpose of This “Climate Justice” Book

## Preparing for the Journey

*Climate Justice: Frontline Stories of Groundbreaking Coalitions in California* is a new story for our time, and a collection of stories, told in the voices of those who did the work on the frontlines of regional activism and advocacy. These are the stories of our everyday climate justice heroes, from how they found their calling, to their growth as part of an organization, to their efforts in coalition-building, to recognizing their place in the nation-wide and global movement to respond to this unprecedented moment in history--global warming and the climate crisis.

*Climate Justice* is a footprint. It serves as an archival memory to enable the larger community to look back on the tremendous accomplishments and daunting challenges of the SB 375 process with greater perspective and precision, the proverbial clarity of 20/20 hindsight. To that end, this report documents the participatory efforts of coalitions in five regions of California, with a deeper dive into the Six Big Wins coalition in the San Francisco Bay Area.

*Climate Justice* is also a benchmark, celebrating the tremendous growth and evolution of climate justice movement-building through the opportunity of Senate Bill 375. Each of the sections in this report charts the benchmarks at different levels. The Statewide section reveals the developmental struggles of coalitions in various parts of the state. Individual leader interviews mark the process of each person's contribution to the movement.

Both demonstrate the leadership required to build effective organizations for regional impact.

*Climate Justice* is a compass—a simple, flexible tool to navigate rough and changing waters, and to chart a course through unknown terrain. A compass can show the way, pointing to actions and strategies developed by communities over time, in similar circumstances. In this case our compass provided guidance from community advocacy planning from a new generation of community development theory, from use of social media and from collective impact technologies. We also discovered common cause and strategy linking our own struggles with freedom movements rising up around the world.

And *Climate Justice* is a seed—not merely retrospective, but generative and nourishing. While honoring and commemorating the regions who made national history, it creates sustenance for the long haul towards a truly sustainable future. This seed is intended to grow good food for an emerging generation of leaders.



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# Organization of “Climate Justice”: Chart Your Own Adventure

“Whatever you have to say, leave  
The roots on, let them  
Dangle  
And the dirt  
Just to make clear  
Where they come from.”  
– “These Days” by Charles Olson

As one of the current editors, and a former wilderness guide, I would like to offer you a map to *Climate Justice: Frontline Stories from Groundbreaking Coalitions in California* and invite you to chart your own adventure throughout. Since 1975, in my role as an organizational consultant and leadership development educator, I have had the privilege to work with learning collaboratives at a local, regional, national and international level. With each opportunity we have discovered new ways to support learning for action and to build on the efforts of those who have come before, while innovating new possibilities. In this current project, Breakthrough Communities is exploring new territory on a number of fronts, and we have built these innovations into the present document by modularizing the entire volume, for maximal choice by the reader.

One adventure is to read the volume straight through in a classic book style, beginning to end.

A second adventure is to use the table of contents to review the whole terrain, then go to a destination of your choice. The table of contents is a guide to individual authors, topics, and regions for specific interviews and articles.



A third adventure is to weave between text stories and media. The Climate Justice “book” has companion media which is partially mounted to our website ([www.climatejustice.info](http://www.climatejustice.info)) and will be available online in phase two of the project. In the web-mounted version, you will be able to see and learn directly from the community voices shared here, and we have 30 free-standing edited video interviews ready to be integrated in a story-booth format. We have also created templates for coalitions who want to add new work, as an interactive feature. A highlights video of selected

interviews is also underway.

A fourth adventure is still in pilot phase—mobile applications for handheld devices, linked to GIS mapping. We are currently exploring various online platform possibilities (eBook and iBook), and handheld devices that

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will not only provide more portable access, but also add to the interactive and ongoing knowledge-building of the project.

In January 2014 we initiated a pilot course utilizing this multi-modal work with a graduate program in Santa Barbara ("Community Mobilization for Policy Development") who will be providing feedback on the optimal integration of the text and media for greater impact with community groups and coalitions. They are also being trained in this approach. We also welcome hearing from you to inspire and support next phases of the project. You can contact us directly with your ideas, support and collaborative energy at [ClimateJustice.info](http://ClimateJustice.info).

Now, back to the text adventures:

This book is divided into five sections. Section One begins with a Foreword, which provides an executive summary and historical context for the work by Carl Anthony, co-founder of Breakthrough Communities. Anthony describes the roots of the work not only in the various Civil Rights movements, but also in the Regional Equity Movement and regional collaborative learning organizations which have been developed nationally over the last 15 years in the United States. Anthony places the case studies in their historical, racial, environmental, and class context, thus providing information about what led to the conditions and outcomes in five regions in California. Carl is in a unique position to provide this summary as a result of his work as the first African American to lead an international environmental organization, and as one of the founders of the Environmental Justice movement. He also provided guidance while an executive program officer of the Ford Foundation.

In the Introductory section we provide conceptual and theoretical background work, which has been evolving in the field of community development and urban planning which have influenced the work presented here. The theory and conceptual material roots this work in the power of story (Jennifer Aaker, Drew Dellinger, Thomas Berry), and in the narrative of social movement theory that Stanford Professor Doug McAdam and colleagues have developed in a lifetime of study on the power of effective coalitions and movements. The Compass for Transformative Leadership is offered as a means of understanding the conceptual story of change that our own work with coalitions over several decades found embedded in successful regional equity strategies across the country. This Breakthrough Compass has both a vertical axis of learning and a horizontal axis of action, and provides a way of charting both dimensions of successful coalition activity. Finally, the organization of the book and the methodology used in gathering knowledge from participants is laid out, as well as the structured protocol for interviews that have informed this project. Additional interviews with national experts are found in the resources section.

Section Two and Three contain the California activists' accounts that demonstrate successful action strategies utilized by frontline communities to foster change in terms of the triple bottom line: economy, environment, and equity. These case studies include brief policy analyses concerning lessons learned. Effectiveness is measured in terms of identifying future approaches to problems related to sustainability, health and social justice.

The documentation throughout Climate Justice is based in an appreciative inquiry approach, and the stories are told in the voices of the people who did the work and their strategic partners.

In Section Two, we feature case studies from the SF Bay Area Six Big Wins networks. An introduction to the Six Big Wins coalition is followed by a series of overview perspectives from policy groups as well as activists reflecting on the overall learning of the Six Big Wins networks.

Each of the six "Win networks" provides a case study in itself, and is presented in turn with an introduction to the purpose and activity of that Win network. Lively narratives of each Win network are presented by individual organizational leaders who are members of that working group. The protocol for the interviews is provided in the resource section of the book.

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We have taken a deeper dive on the Six Wins network case studies for several reasons. The conditions were right in the Bay Area for a variety of social innovations and regionally scaled activities. The Great Communities Collaborative, Urban Habitat's Social Equity Caucus, National Regional Equity Summits co-sponsored by local partner PolicyLink, and the Climate Action Network, as well as a decade of investment from the Ford Foundation and other national funders have created a state of readiness which accelerated the collaborative efforts of networks here and made the moment ripe for collaboration. This collection of 6 case studies—individual Win networks—is a holon. Each provides in turn one part of a regional story comprising the Six Big Wins, and the SF Bay Area region is then a part of a statewide collection of regions. The story of our work in California is in turn part of a national and increasingly global network of community based narratives and stories.

Since 2006 and the passage of AB32, the most progressive climate change legislation in the United States, the nation's eyes have been on California, and for good reason. The requirement to move from a current use of carbon at 14T per person to 2 tons of carbon annually by 2050 represents one of the most radical tasks of political will, community mobilization and technical innovation ever required. This will necessitate a move to clean and renewable energies and reinvention of the economy, and the re-imagination of our urban existence. The statewide regional stories are organized differently than the Bay Area collection of Win networks case studies. We have built this section with the scaffolding of three intersecting organizing structures: the California Coalition for Just and Sustainable Communities (CCJSC), the University-Community network, and the Building Healthy Communities (BHC) sites which are part of the California Endowment statewide investment strategy.

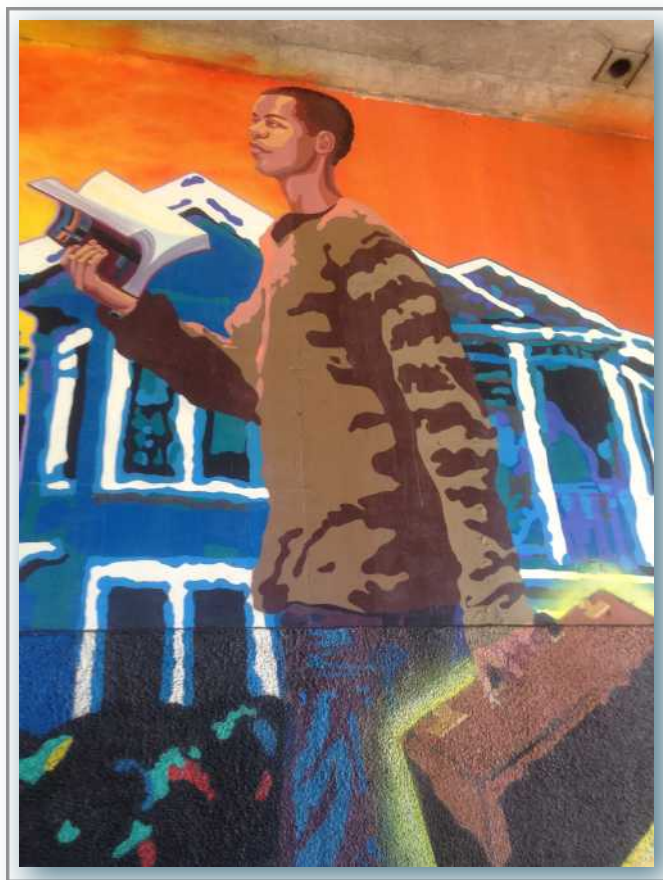
Section Three begins with an overview of the state and reflections on the regional lessons learned in California by nationally recognized regional equity expert, Dr. Manuel Pastor. Subsequently, each subsection begins with a series of maps prepared by Kearey Smith of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission for those regions. In each region we invited highly respected University-Community partners who were intimately involved in the Sustainable Communities Strategies process of SB 375 in those regions to provide their respective case study. In each case, our writers were involved with the CCJSC partners and had first hand knowledge of the BHC sites in their regions. Individually, they offer insight into the cultural geography of people and place in California, and into the distinct challenge of governance and civic engagement provided by each culturally diverse group. Taken as a whole, they provide a front row seat to the challenge of governance and progressive legislation in California—the eighth largest economy in the world, and serve as a bellwether for the challenges and opportunities the rest of the country will face.

In Section Four we offer promising and visionary directions for the next steps ahead. We also offer practical lessons learned, and pathways forward that are already being mobilized for the next cycle of work for California's frontline communities.

A variety of resources are provided in Section Five. In addition to acknowledging the many partners in this project and the various constituents, we offer background information on the Six Wins networks and key documents. We have also presented the various protocols for our research. Historical documents, sign on letters, and other products created by the members of the coalitions are available for easy access and implementation to benefit coalition work in a variety of other contexts. Perhaps useful tools for others whom we hope will be inspired to join us in the work of advancing the Great Turning (Macy 2007). We have also offered a catalog of our video interviews with coalition members. Landmark articles include the essay, which Richard Marcantonio and Alex Karner published in PRACC, and the founding document "Let's Work Together" by Carl Anthony, Breakthrough Communities (see Resources.)

# Theoretical Approaches: Field Notes in the Wild

This book is about action, and powerful, successful coalition action at that. So, why begin with concepts and theory? Over the last 15 years as the regional equity movement has launched, learning-action approaches to collective impact are exploding; grounded in the strategies that have worked. New knowledge is being generated in communities, and by communities, not merely about communities. Concurrently, there is movement within universities to privilege community driven research. The complexity of global cross-sector solutions needed in the face of global warming has birthed an increasing degree of interdisciplinarianism and cross-sector coalition building in all fields. There is a convergence occurring between communities and universities in response to the unprecedented urgency of the Climate Crisis—we report on just a few of the emergent fields here. These are notes from the field as we leave the main highways, and break new ground. More to follow.



## New Sources For Generating Knowledge

Universities have launched centers of entrepreneurship that are making knowledge available and accessible to community groups. Communities are no longer mere consumers of research, or the objects of study—they are the generators of new knowledge, authorities in themselves, and holding the university bases accountable to their knowledge and agenda. At its best, we see a kind of hybrid organization emerging. At Breakthrough Communities we have had the benefit of working with groups across the United States and developing relationships here in California during the Climate Justice process in California. The Kirwan Institute at Ohio State University founded with the leadership of John A. Powell, the Institute for Race and Poverty currently led by Myron Orfield, and the Brookings Institution are national centers of research accountable to communities. Here in California, U.C. Davis—Center for Regional Change, UC Berkeley—Center for Community Innovation; USC PERE; and UCSD Center for Urban and Economic Design, have all contributed greatly not only to our present work integrating theory and praxis, but also demonstrated a willingness to listen and follow the agendas of communities.

How can Universities hear community knowledge? Narrative as a basis for theory, complementing the quantitative is one approach:

## Power of Story

“Tell me the facts and I’ll learn. Tell me the truth and I’ll believe. But tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever.” From Jennifer Aaker (Stanford Business School)

We humans are story creatures. We are meaning makers—finding our place in the family of things.

Some say that our most distinguishing characteristic as humans is the power of telling a story. Some would say the definition of being human is that we are “talk story” creatures, beginning with the early cave petroglyphs at Olduvai Valley and the Rift Valley. In the caves of Lascaux, meaning making, the stars and constellations, is tied to the images. We are compelled as humans to tell our stories.

As you read the stories here there are several layers. First, there are the individual stories of real live climate justice heroes who are telling the story of transformative process they have been in themselves as leaders, as they bring their own histories, gifts, and talents to bear on one of the most epic struggles of our planet’s history. Although we are reporting on a very specific effort, the response of regional social justice coalitions in five regions in California, we are also aware that we are part of a larger narrative. How ordinary citizens banded together at a time of great peril, the growing climate crisis facing global warming to reverse the destruction of the conditions which support complex life on earth and began at the local level to work with others to shift the dialog, move into action and change our history towards more healthy, just and sustainable outcome for all life.

It has been a profound experience to hear the history of elders and the young who are rising up and finding their voices, and feeling their own personal destinies aligning with the work.

### **Power of Framing (Doug Macadam)**

The Six Big Wins Coalition took advantage of a theory of social movements that suggests that successful social movements emerge when three conditions are met: (1) a political opportunity presents itself; (2) there are relatively autonomous mobilizing structures within the community; (3) the leaders of the movement are able to frame the issues in terms that mobilizing structures understand as a way to address their concerns. Stanford Professor MacAdam’s Political Opportunity Theory was developed through careful analysis of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, and comparison of it with other successful movements around the world.

In the present case, the political opportunity was presented when legislation was created requiring transportation agencies to create plans to reduce green house gas emissions. To meet targets for reducing CO2 emissions, AB32 and SB 375 required Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) throughout the state to overhaul plans for land use and community development. Constituencies within low-income communities and their allies were knowledgeable and well organized. They were able to frame the issues, developing both learning and action campaigns, scaling up from local to the metropolitan level. Analysis of this framing process is presented below in the discussion of the Compass for Transformative Leadership.



### **Learning Organization**

Peter Senge, with his landmark volume, *The Fifth Discipline*, is most often attributed as having coined the term “Learning Organization.” As Senge describes the elements of deep democracy, as well as normative creativity and innovation (Hallmarks of the Learning Organization), he could easily be describing the Six Wins coalition and its constituents. Here is a place where it is safe to ask questions, propose another way of doing things, or take risks.

Another characteristic of learning organizations is that power is re-defined from pyramid (power over) to web (power with). Learning is 360 degrees in the case studies of Climate Justice, and innovation was initiated from any position within the organization.

We utilized many participatory planning tools and a

“skunkworks” model for innovation in the creation of the different Win networks that comprised this project. In the learning organization, planning is not a blueprint drafted at the top and carried out at the bottom over time. Rather, organizational change is seen as permanent whitewater to be navigated. Mobilizing for policy development is on going and requires building the infrastructure and capacity to plan with representative members from all subsystems in the organization—this was the essential framework for the work of the Climate Justice coalitions. People from each of the five regions over California comprised the different coalitions and committees that met as part of the formulation of the book.

## Theory of Living Systems

Many theorists consider the groundbreaking work in the new physics (chaos theory, theory of living systems, fractals, etc.) to be the most revolutionary influence in the field of Organizational and Community Development in this century. When we model movements in mechanical terms and pattern them after machines, they are inevitably going to break down, and workers will feel like cogs in a factory. To create vibrant sustainable environments it is essential to understand biology and the principles of living systems: how life moves and breathes, renews itself, and replicates its wisest dances over time.

For our work at Breakthrough Communities, we speak of leadership in biological terms: nurturing and supporting the life potential of all staff, and the quality of trust it takes to cultivate and grow the organization:



## How Life Self Organizes

Joanna Macy in her book *Coming Back to Life: Practices to Reconnect Our Lives and Our World*, identifies four characteristics of living systems:

Each system, from atom to galaxy is a whole.

One of our greatest challenges throughout this process was to dare to think and act like a region, vs a neighborhood or special interest coalition. And to define this whole from our own definition—not One Bay Area as a white Marin-ite might, but to define our plan as ONE BAY AREA FOR ALL. Likewise—when planner look at the watersheds, air sheds, and travel flows of a region, they are required to think about the follow-throughs and larger systems whole. It is a major accomplishment of the Climate justice coalitions in the Bay Area that the title ONE PLAN BAY AREA become true

to them. .

1 A system is not reducible to its components. Its distinctive nature and capacities derive from the interactive relationships between its parts. This interplay is synergistic, generating emergent properties and new possibilities which are not predictable from the character of the separate parts—just as the wetness of water

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could not be predicted from oxygen and hydrogen before they combined, or just as the tensile strength of steel far exceeds the combined strengths of iron and nickel.

EXAMPLE: (Emergent properties)

The power of the interview format throughout the book demonstrates the interactive potential of not only hearing an individual person or representative, but the synergistic impact of hearing and seeing them together in a compelling medium. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.

Eco-bus pass was the bringing together of residents from “the hills and the flats”, social justice and youth advocacy with transportation issues. Beginning as a wild idea, the subsequent legislative initiative Measure B was narrowly defeated in a two-thirds majority ballot.

2 Open systems are able to maintain their balance; they stabilize—despite continual flow-through of matter-energy and information, and indeed, thanks to that flow-through.

EXAMPLE: (Flux-equilibrium)

When membership changed, Win networks continued to persist and adapt to changing leadership and membership. When wild geese fly in formation, tired leaders fall back, and yet the formation keeps moving forward as new leaders emerge.

3 Open systems not only maintain their balance amidst the flux, but also evolve in complexity.

EXAMPLE: (Feedback)

Living systems rely on feedback for healthy decisions. The creation of multiple participant feedback systems and the willingness to rely on this information in the administration of this Climate Justice project is one of the hallmarks of groundbreaking coalitions modeled on living systems.

4 Every system is a “Holon”—that is, it is both a whole in its own right and part of a larger system.

EXAMPLE: (Nested Holon-archives).

Each participant member of the Six Wins Coalitions and this project has their own nested organizational work to complete in their individual organizations with varying degrees of autonomy while also undertaking chosen or necessary collaboration in their win networks and the larger coalition. Even while these separate entities operate independently in San Joaquin Valley, the Bay Area, Sacramento, San Diego, and Los Angeles, together they form a group that simultaneously operates in tandem to bring about the results of this project.

## Leadership and The New Sciences—Quantum Coalitions

Margaret Wheatley’s award-winning classic *Leadership and the New Science* applies new discoveries in science to the field of leadership, organizations, and collaborative systems such as coalitions and networks:

1 The universe is a living, creative, experimenting experience of discovering what’s possible at all levels of scale from microbe to cosmos.

We chose the title “Climate Justice” for this document to underscore the dedication to innovation, the ongoing experimentation and responsiveness. The strategic planning process could be characterized as a fierce encouragement of the possible.

2 Life’s natural tendency is to organize. Life organizes into greater levels of complexity to support more diversity and greater sustainability.



The dynamics of nurturing and supporting a multicultural organization are challenging. There are no role models, and yet to be an organization, which “walks its talk”, embody the principles of justice it is a necessary and rewarding struggle. See also the section entitled, “Carrying on the Tradition of a Multicultural Organization.”

3 Life organizes around a self. Organizing is always an act of creating an identity.

The title of the Six Wins Coalition creates a group identity and acts as an agent to reinforce solidarity. A common group title allocates strength to the greater whole and greater purpose

of the work of the group.

4 Life self-organizes. Networks, patterns, and structures emerge even with minimal external. Organization wants to happen.

The role of leadership in a web model requires different skills: relational, facilitative, empowering. Through in reach and outreach Climate Justice planning, individuals and units are in a dialogic relation with supervisors. Whenever possible, individuals are encouraged to be solution seeking, e.g. organizing for the additional space utilization.

5 People are intelligent, creative, adaptive, self-organizing, and meaning seeking.

One of the inspiring features of the interview format of this book and of information gathering was the opportunity to hear the individual stories of meaning-seeking that underlie people’s motivations for working at their respective organizations at every level in order to bring about viable solutions for low-income communities and the ongoing impact of high greenhouse gas emissions.

6 Organizations are living systems. They too are intelligent, creative, adaptive, self-organizing, meaning-seeking.

The success of the Climate Justice Coalitions is in part due to the drive to establish a collective intelligence (not merely a collection of intelligences). By creating videos and a collective book, we preserved a memory of the self-organizing intelligence of the group

## Appreciative Inquiry

The shift from problem-centered movement and coalition building to appreciative inquiry (A.I.) has been led by David Cooperrider of Case Western Reserve University. His positive approach to change includes cataloguing of resources and identifying the “life-force” capacities of core constituents, organizations and networks. The foundational principles of this theory were embedded in the culture established with the Six Wins Coalition. The refinements of his approach were incorporated in a four-stage reflection process that was utilized throughout the strategic planning process. A.I. provided a building block in the individual leadership development process as well as in the team-building work of networks and coalitions. The four levels of self-assessment we utilized



were: Appreciation (including identifying significant learnings), Challenges, Vision, and Support (needed to carry out the vision).

At the outset, we utilized these categories when looking at our own individual leadership, in dyads interviewing and coaching one another, and in groups looking at our performance in work teams. The units used these four categories to review their work over the past three years and to prepare the final product of the Climate Justice project. We look forward to creating a normative organizational practice they can assist the culture as a whole system to become more resilient and literate about its human resources.

### **Liberation and Multi-Cultural Theory**

Each of us embodies a distinct culture, which we bring to our movement and coalition work, shaped by our race, gender, sexual orientation, class backgrounds and many other factors. Community organizing from the multi-cultural perspective asserts that we are always informed by the culture we bring to our work, and that is essential to be able to talk about the issues of race, gender, and class openly and directly as part of cross sectors with one another. Celebrating differences and working creatively with diversity was one of the growing edges of the field of our work.

Breakthrough Communities and the Six Wins coalition recognize that changing demographics now reveal people of color are the new majority of the population in California. This requires a shift in perspective by the movements and new tools for sharing of power by people of European American descent. The transformation that this requires was supported in the SB 375 process by the conversations on participant involvement and the content of the Six Wins coalition.

Among diverse staff throughout the Six Wins coalition, there is a necessity for close interdependence and collaboration on tough, high-stakes subject matter working in tight quarters. Under these conditions it can be a survival strategy to lapse into color blindness or a premature transcendence of differences for the sake of avoiding internal organizational conflict, especially when there is so much oppression already present in the larger society. Liberation theory assists in providing language and tools for joining hands while dismantling racism (sexism, etc.) As part of the SB 375 planning process, to maintain movement with the Six Wins coalition, it will be essential to continue these efforts in a systematic cultural literacy program. While the Six Win coalitions' mission to work with communities of concern has been clear, the challenge of how best to reflect and respect the populations we serve is an on-going challenge.

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“It is not our differences which divide us,  
but our failure to recognize (and work with) these differences”  
— Audre Lorde

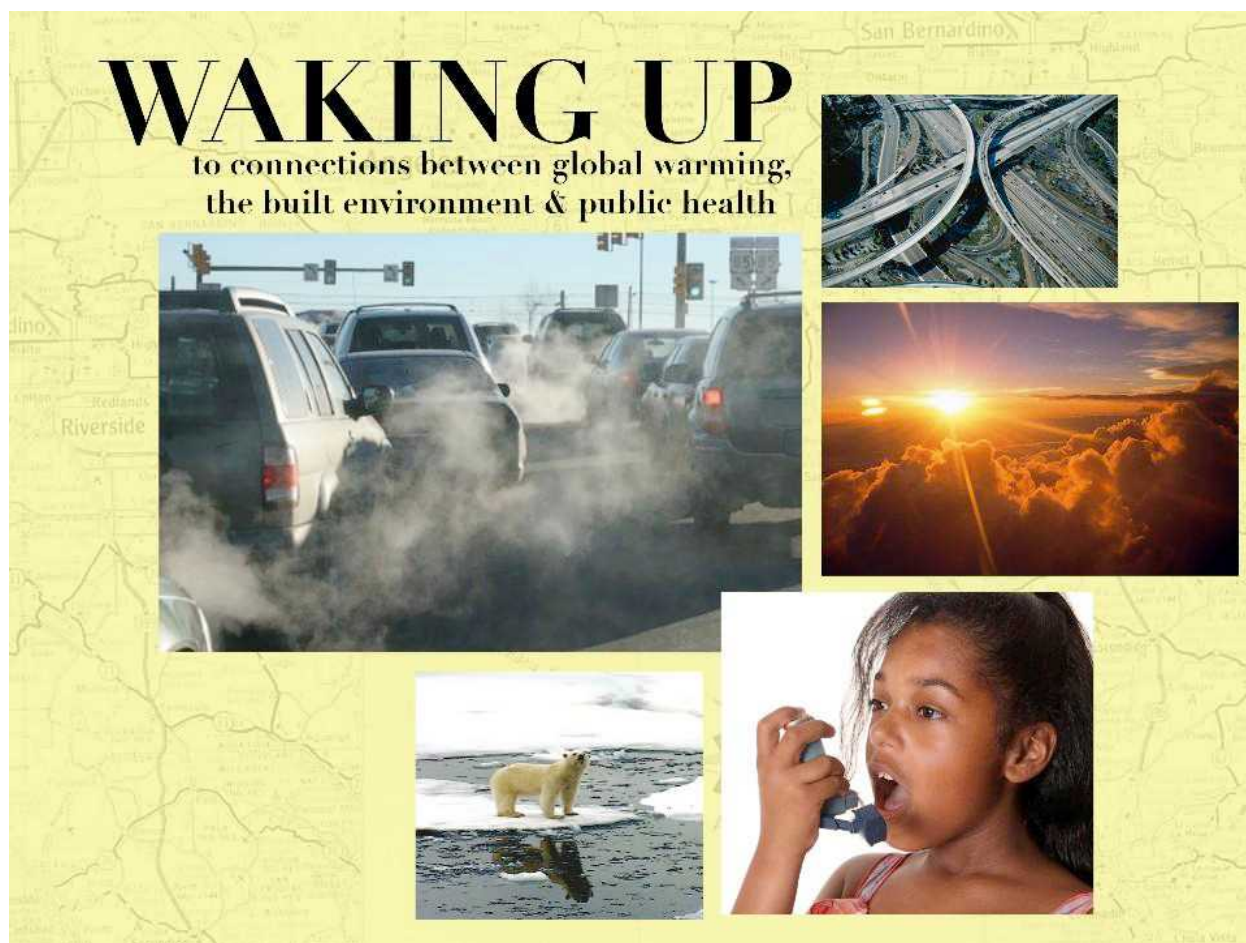


### Compass

The Breakthrough Compass is a grounded theory that has undergone several rounds of testing and shows promise as a robust and accessible tool for strengthening the collective impact of frontline communities. We developed this learning-action model in a research process over ten years in twelve regions of the United States. The results are documented in *Breakthrough Communities: Sustainability and Justice in the Next American Metropolis* (MIT Press 2009). From 2010 to 2011, this theory was put to the test in our pilot Climate Justice project and implemented in three communities in California (San Diego, Sacramento, and Sonoma). We gratefully acknowledge the support of the California Endowment, the San Francisco Foundation, and the San Diego Community Foundation, which made possible the

subsequent Climate Justice toolkit: *Building Healthy and Just Communities for All in California in an Age of Global Warming*. Our present study, *Climate Justice*, builds on the foundations of this earlier work and provides a further articulation of how grassroots organizations meet the challenges in creating a better world for future generations in California. The Compass framework describes how the most effective organizations develop through five recognizable stages.

In the first stage, we observed communities waking up to connections with other communities, to the issues they faced, and to emerging dynamics in the larger world around them. In the second stage, they found compelling ways to say no to outrageous circumstances that threatened their survival. In the third stage they discovered they had to get grounded in a fundamentally new reality. They had to ask themselves, “Who are “we” as a community? What is happening to our place in the world? What are the larger forces shaping the world we live in? In the fourth stage, armed and confident, with a new understanding of the answers to these questions, effective social justice advocates reached out to explore new horizons, world views different from their own, new technologies, and new understandings of their own roles in the larger community. Finally, the fifth stage is saying yes to new possibilities, around which a consensus for positive change can occur to create Healthy And Just Communities For All.



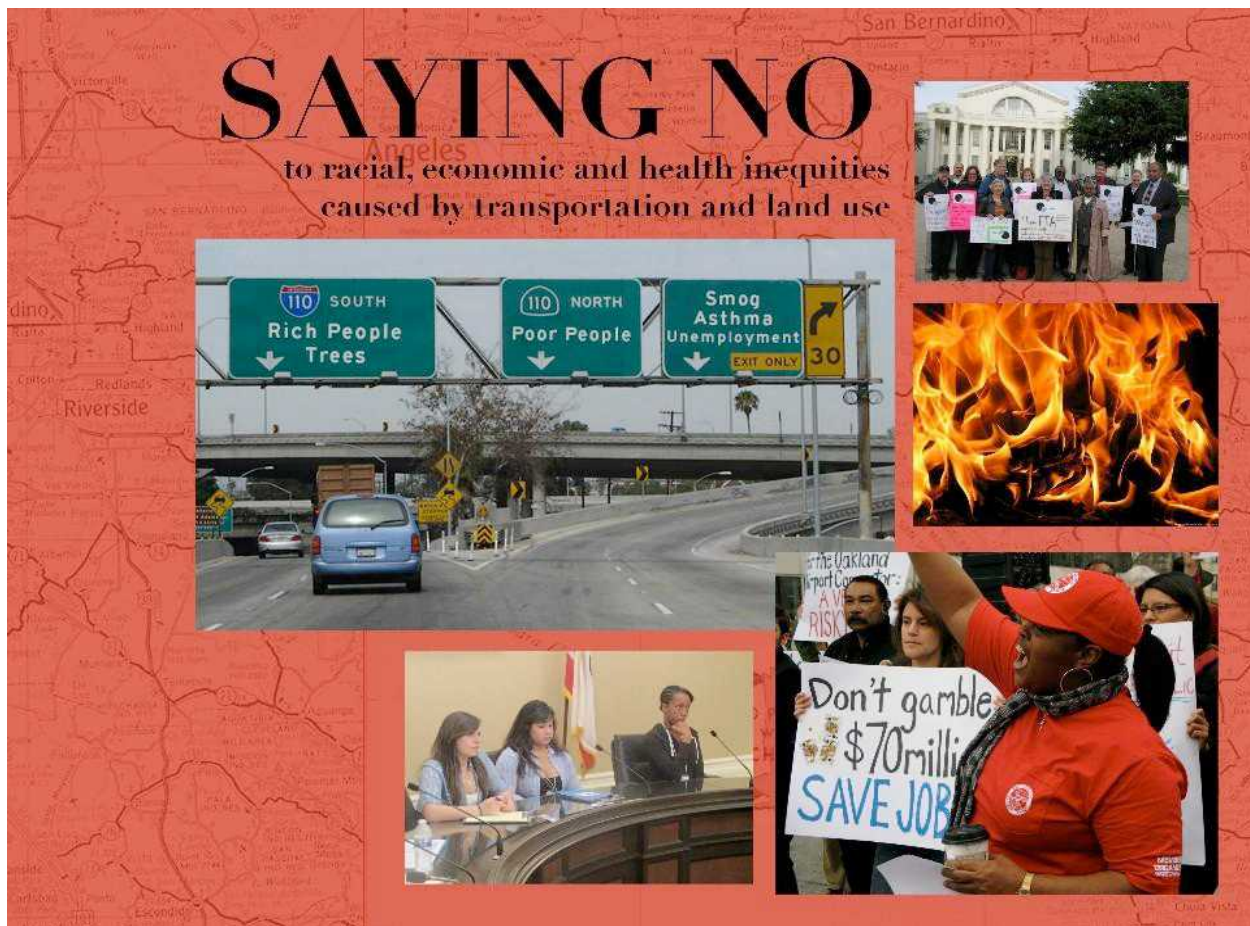
## Compass Point 1

### Waking Up

#### Connections between Global Warming, Transportation, Land Use, and Healthy Communities

Historically, California's land use and transportation policies have contributed to racial, economic, and health inequities, negatively affecting communities of color and vulnerable populations throughout the state. However, in response to the threat and reality of global warming, recent legislation is restructuring transportation and land use throughout the state, creating an opportunity for a new dialogue. Communities of color and their social justice allies are engaging in the formal processes established by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations to implement the legislation.

All around the world, records show increases in global average temperatures, of the air and ocean. Warming of the earth's polar regions is causing the melting of ice, with ominous consequences for rising sea levels on the whole planet. The world's glaciers are retreating, and extreme weather related disasters are becoming everyday events around the world. In the popular conception, the biggest effect of climate change is its altering sea ice conditions and melting the habitat of polar bears, or its radical reduction in the size and diversity of tropical rain forests. Often overlooked is the fact that global warming is bad for people, here at home in the United States and around the world. It is especially bad for the Health and Safety of vulnerable populations, people of color, and the poor.



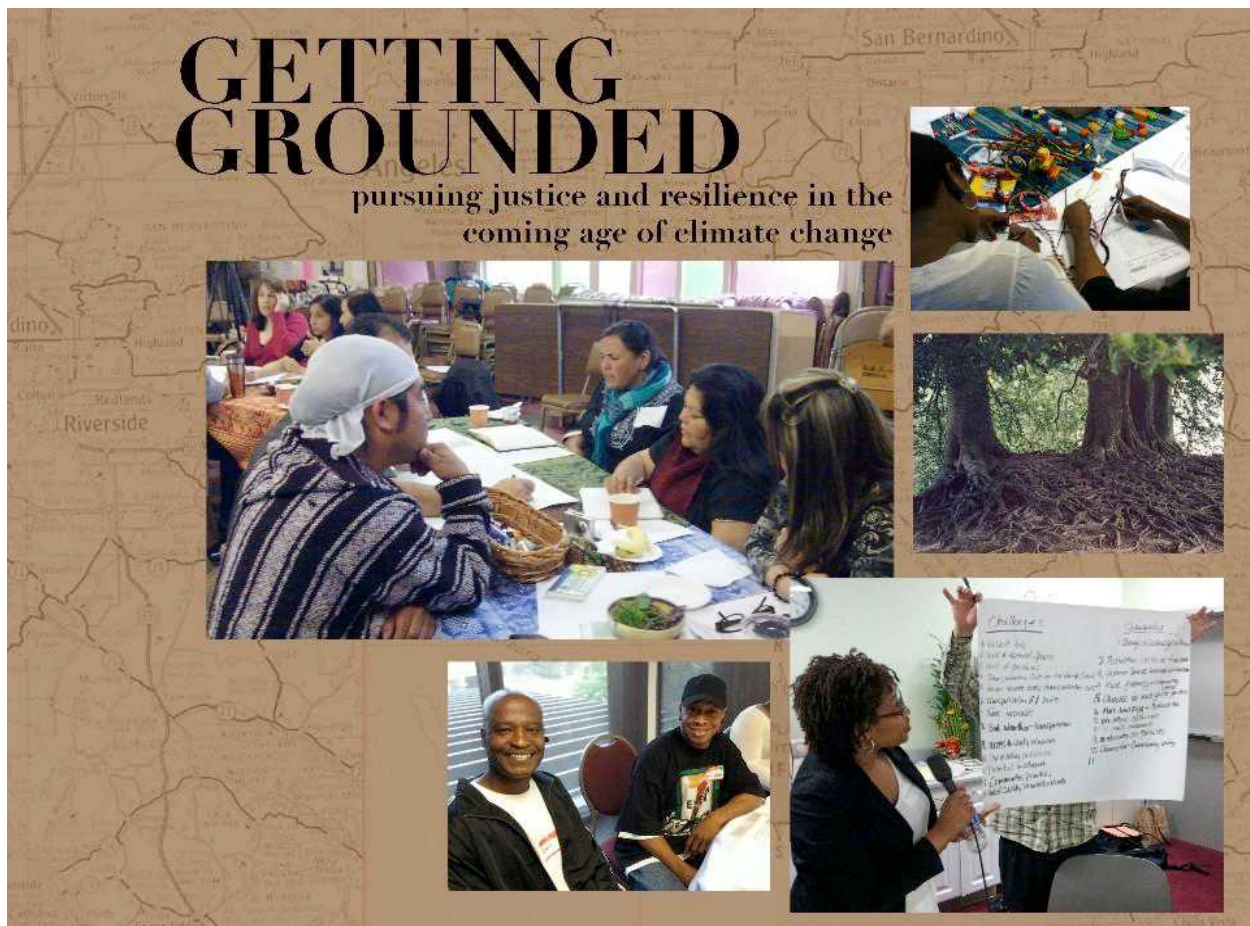
## Compass Point 2 Saying No

### Racial, Economic and Health Inequities in California's Transportation and Land Use System

The health inequities we experience in California today are in part a legacy of transportation and land decisions made over the past two generations. Over-reliance on the single occupancy automobile helped to create suburban sprawl and inner city disinvestment: Metropolitan apartheid in California, with its geography of health disparities between the white middle class on one side, and communities of color and the poor on the other.

The racially defined pattern of metropolitan development conferred multiple advantages on middle class white suburban home owners, positioned to capture health supporting benefits: good schools, low taxes, access to jobs, parks and open space, and participation in local government. Prior transportation and land use developments in California have contributed to racial, economic, and health inequities in low income communities of color throughout the state.

The benefits afforded the privileged were unavailable to African Americans trapped by segregation in the housing market facing the social and economic consequences of inner city decline and growing concentration of poverty.



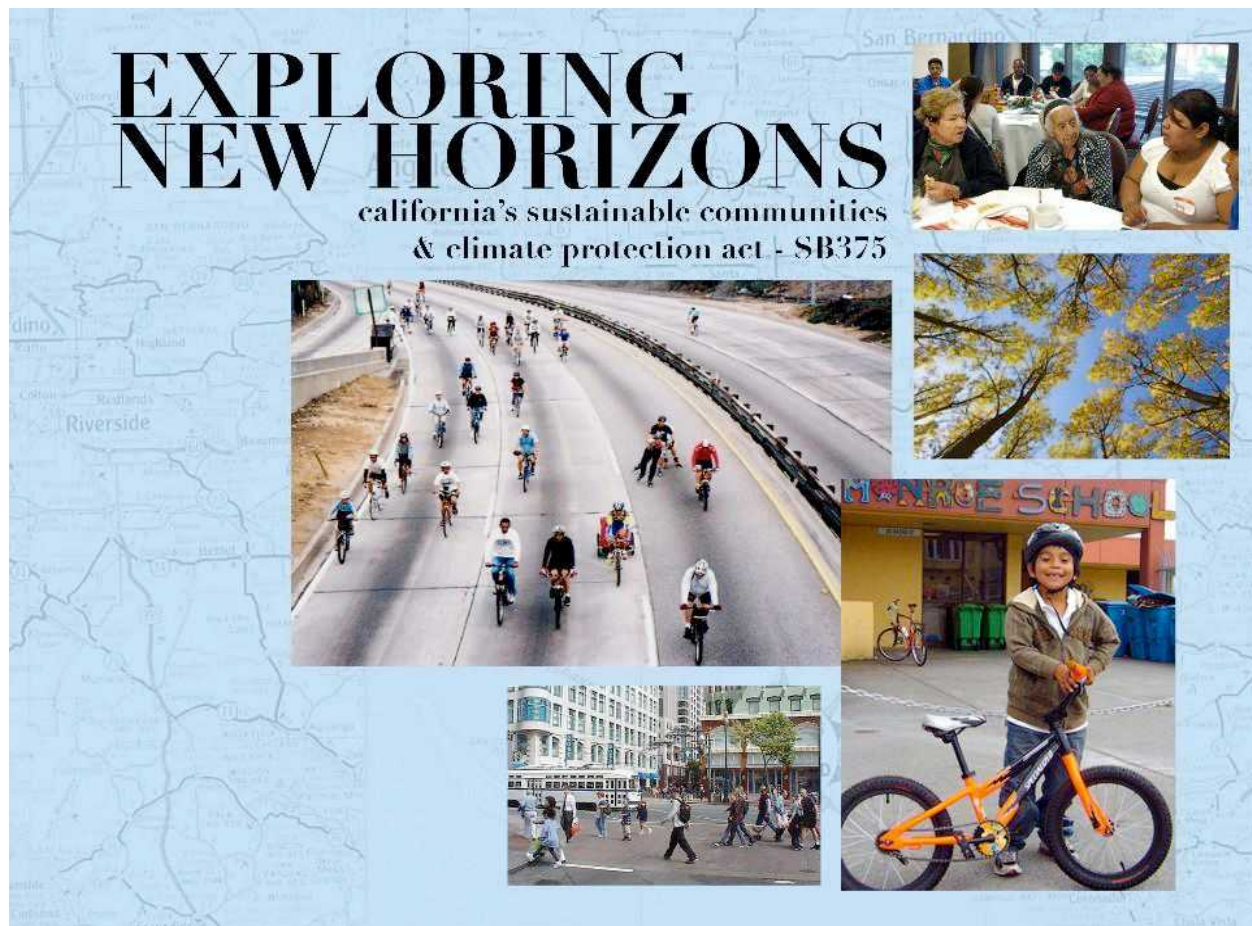
### Compass Point 3 Getting Grounded

#### Pursuing Justice and Resilience in the Coming Age of Climate Change

By getting grounded we mean creating a shared foundation for learning and action during this period of rapid transition from a postindustrial society increasingly challenged by global warming. All segments of the society have a stake in the outcome of this transition. The stakes are highest for vulnerable communities. They have a great deal to lose if the shift to so-called sustainable patterns is also to a new generation of policies and practices that reinforce racial and economic segregation.

Climate change is already upon us. And it is already bad for people, especially the poor in the United States and around the world. We must act now to prepare for the more radical changes to come. Our response to the threat and reality of global warming is also a remarkable opportunity to create a healthy and just society. We must focus on the human side of the coming post-carbon world, what it means for race, class, gender, intergenerational engagement and relationships between people and the natural world.

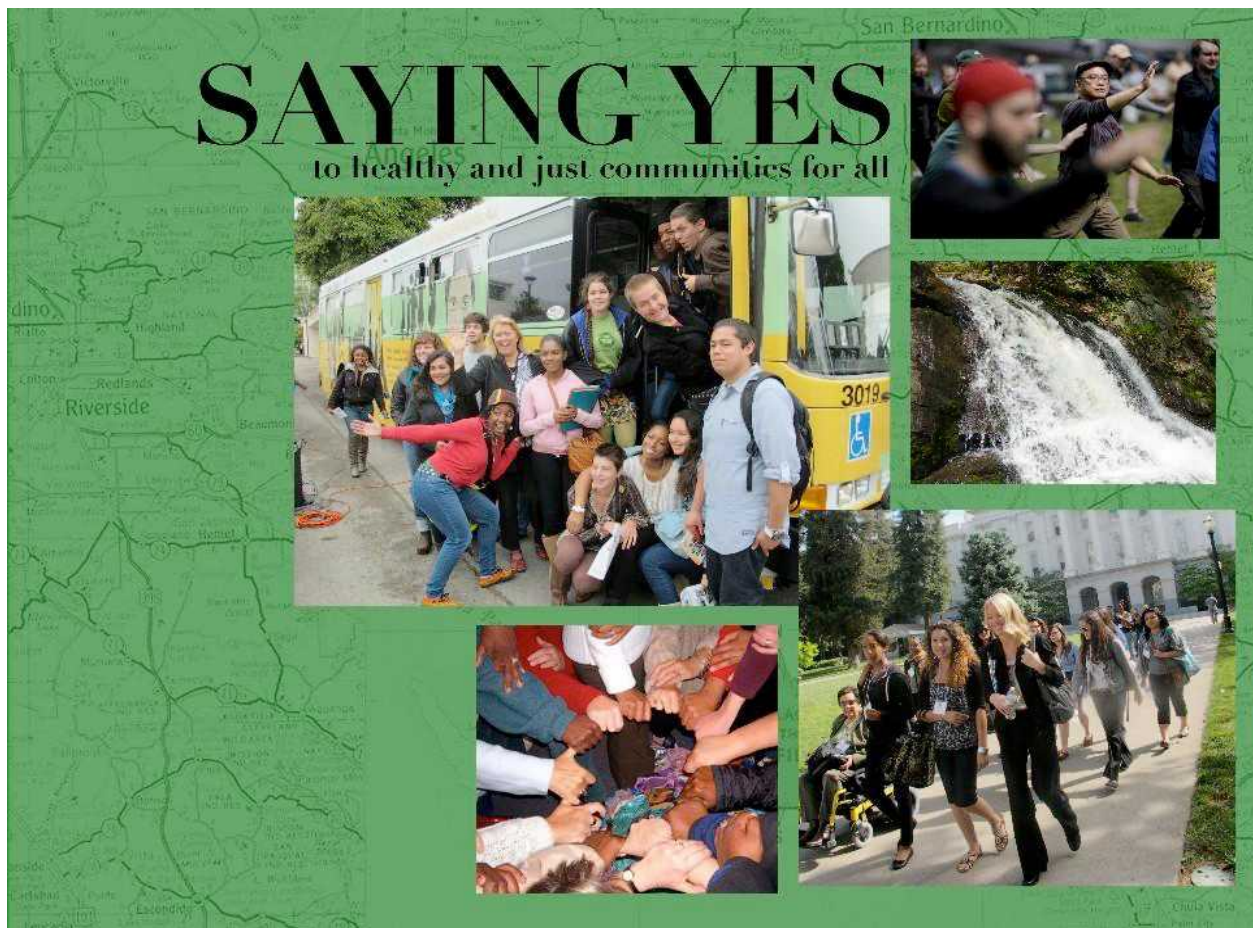
Unfortunately, the people most directly affected by the environmental crisis are the least equipped to respond. They are poor and often illiterate. All members of society should equitably share the burdens, and have access to the opportunities created in making the transition to a world of reduced green house gas emissions. Currently, those least responsible for causing global warming are suffering the most from its consequences.



#### Compass Point 4 Exploring New Horizons California's Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection Act (SB 375)

For many social justice activists and health professionals, regional planning, land use and transportation planning is unfamiliar territory. Discovering new roles to be effective in this context requires both imagination and creativity. Communities of color, working families and their social justice allies throughout California are engaging in the formal processes established by the Metropolitan Planning Organizations to implement this landmark legislation. They are gaining access seats at the table, learning about the approaches for change being advanced by professional planners, and by city and suburban governments.

California's Sustainable Communities & Climate Protection Act (SB 375) is intended to implement a new vision of urban, suburban and rural development throughout the state. The goal of this effort is to reduce single passenger car culture and greenhouse gas emissions. Ostensibly organized around a vision of sustainability that includes the three "E's"—the environment, economy, and equity, in practice the social equity outcomes are poorly developed, and may represent significant opportunities for participation by low-income and other marginalized communities.



### Compass Point 5 Saying Yes Healthy And Just Communities For All

A new movement for equity is emerging in the California and around the world. An equitable pattern of human centered development, protecting our natural resources, safeguarding the rights of the most vulnerable populations, sharing the burdens and benefits of climate change in ways that overcome racial, economic and health disparities caused by unfair social and economic policies.

Social justice advocates and communities of color are building a political base and bargaining hard for solutions in the SB 375 process that can deliver real benefits to their communities. And they are bringing to the task a brand of bottom up innovation born of decades of struggle on the streets of their own neighborhoods.