



SIERRA CLUB

TEHIPITE CHAPTER

ATTENTION, ADVOCATES FOR REDUCING SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION

The Sierra Club Tehipite Chapter in Fresno is engaged in reassessing and developing an action plan to break the cycle of regulatory capture that reinforces the continuing problem with air pollution levels that exceed the Clean Air Act of 1964 and newer regulations and guidelines for safe air leading to at least 800 deaths from air pollution-caused diseases in Fresno County annually.

This month we highlight the absence of effective measures to stop the proliferation of illegal trucking yards in residentially zoned areas of Fresno County. The 2023 Fresno County Draft Environmental Impact Report fails to address this and the diseases and deaths caused by industrial air pollution. Residentially zoned areas in the City of Fresno face similar problems.

Shutting Down the Proliferation of Illegal Trucking Yards in Residentially Zoned Areas, by Emily Brandt

There is overwhelming evidence of the impact of long-term exposure to diesel air pollution on human health causing severe loss of cognition in children and adults, cardiovascular, respiratory, liver, kidney diseases and decreasing life expectancy by 15-20 years in highly pollution-burdened areas of Fresno. Eight hundred people die annually from pollution-caused diseases in Fresno County though the DPEIR does not discuss specific elements of these diseases and outcomes, nor the need to calculate current conditions in present and future plans.

Extensive study of this problem now called "attainment" in areas like Fresno that consistently fail to meet Clean Air Act standards has led to a state of paralysis in which there is no effort at mitigation of current levels because current excesses have been enshrined in law FCOG 2019 Conformity Analysis. This creates the conditions for a never-ending position on SB 1000 Environmental Justice and SB 535 Disadvantaged Community lists for all cities that have not met Clean Air Act Standards for decades. Communities are not being protected—children are not being protected from severe cognitive loss over decades and from premature death and severe life-long illness by these practices and policies.

CalEnviroScreen 4.0 shows West Central Fresno at 90%+ pollution-burdened; many areas currently show readings of 90-100th percentile. The Fresno County DPEIR Section 4.3 and 4.8 include no measures to decrease the current toxic level of air pollution in West Central Fresno. These extremely high levels are generated not only by passenger vehicles as we are frequently told; they are caused by extensive historical land pollution from superfund sites which remain unremediated, toxic industrial polluters, battery dumps, the nearby (diesel) train switch yard, diesel freight and trucking yards that run hundreds of trucks 24 hours a day including those transporting hazardous materials.

Nothing in the EIR will reduce current toxic air pollution that is killing residents and making people of all ages sick. This 2023 DPEIR and the Fresno County General Plan which aim to expand industry and commerce in this area will add high-density housing, increase the toxicity of

these areas above the 100th percentile possible on CalEnviroScreen 4.0. Nothing is being done to lower currently toxic levels as plans are being made that will increase and raise those levels significantly.

According to CEQA (2021) 15002 (b) (h) (5), this project which will occur in areas that are at CalEnviroScreen 4.0 90-100th percentile pollution-burdened, are SB 535 Disadvantaged Communities and under SB 1000 Areas in need of Environmental Justice that implement immediate stoppage of existing mobile air polluters such as trucking yards springing up unimpeded and operating for years. The industrial project will include 188 spaces for diesel trucks, but this does not count or include all the illegal trucking yards in operation currently and in the process of starting up all over Fresno County and the City of Fresno.

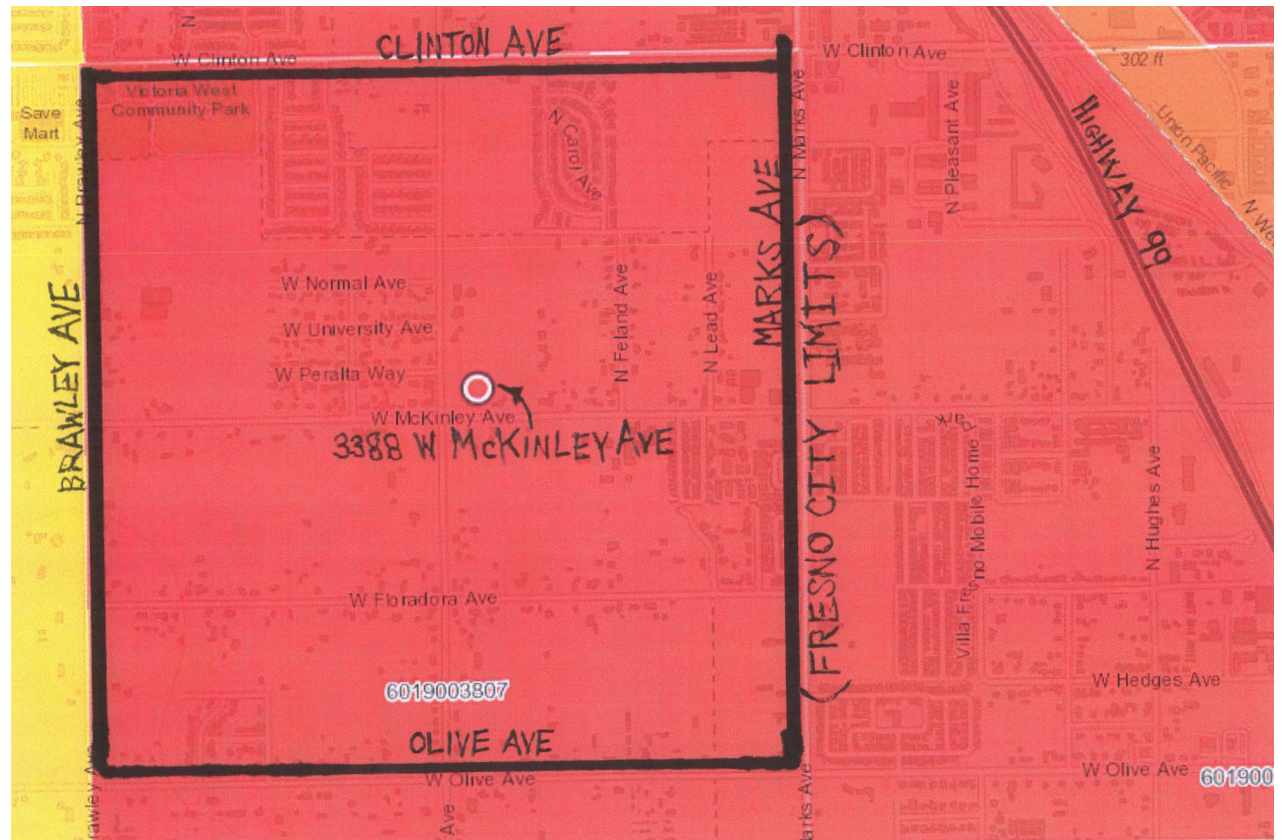
standards which do not save lives today. The San Joaquin Air Control District has been completely discredited for its practices and is currently charged with "cooking the books." In view of this dire and deadly situation, we must see this DPEIR document fail to be approved by all government agencies.

The graphic is a compilation of information from CalEnviroScreen 4.0 https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/11d2f52282a54cee6cac7428e6184203/page/CalEnviroScreen-4_0/

Please contact Emily Brandt, ebrandt76@gmail.com with questions or an interest in taking action on this problem.



Exposures	Environmental Effects	Overall Percentiles
Ozone	Cleanup Sites	CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Percentile
Particulate Matter 2.5	Groundwater Threats	91
Diesel Particulate Matter	Hazardous Waste	Pollution Burden Percentile
Toxic Releases	Impaired Waters	79
Traffic	Solid Waste	Population Characteristics Percentile
Pesticides		92



REGION OF PROPOSED TRUCKING YARDS IN UNINCORPORATED WEST-CENTRAL FRESNO IN A RESIDENTIAL ZONING AREA

Making matters far worse is the fact that there is no consistent and even distribution of air sensors throughout this area. A vital step toward such improvements can be the establishment of air monitors throughout Fresno County that collect air pollution data enabling meaningful and effective action, an end to regulatory capture through effective legislation and legal authority in counties and cities to enforce zoning laws protecting residential communities from economic exploitation. CalEPA and CARB provide Cap and Trade GHG reduction plan mostly through performance-based

