

# Presenting an interactive database of environmental justice conflicts across Coastal CA

Patterns of distribution, community mobilization and actor networks

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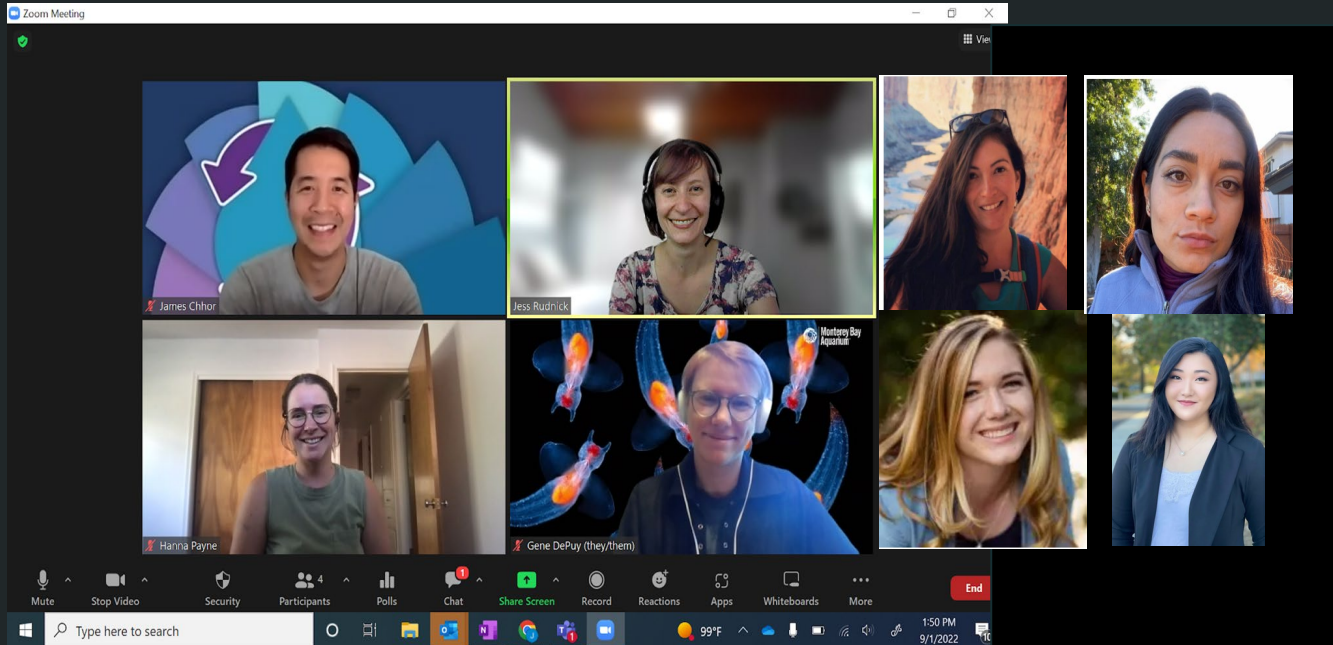
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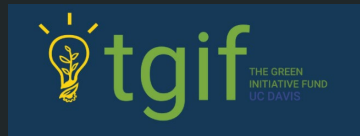
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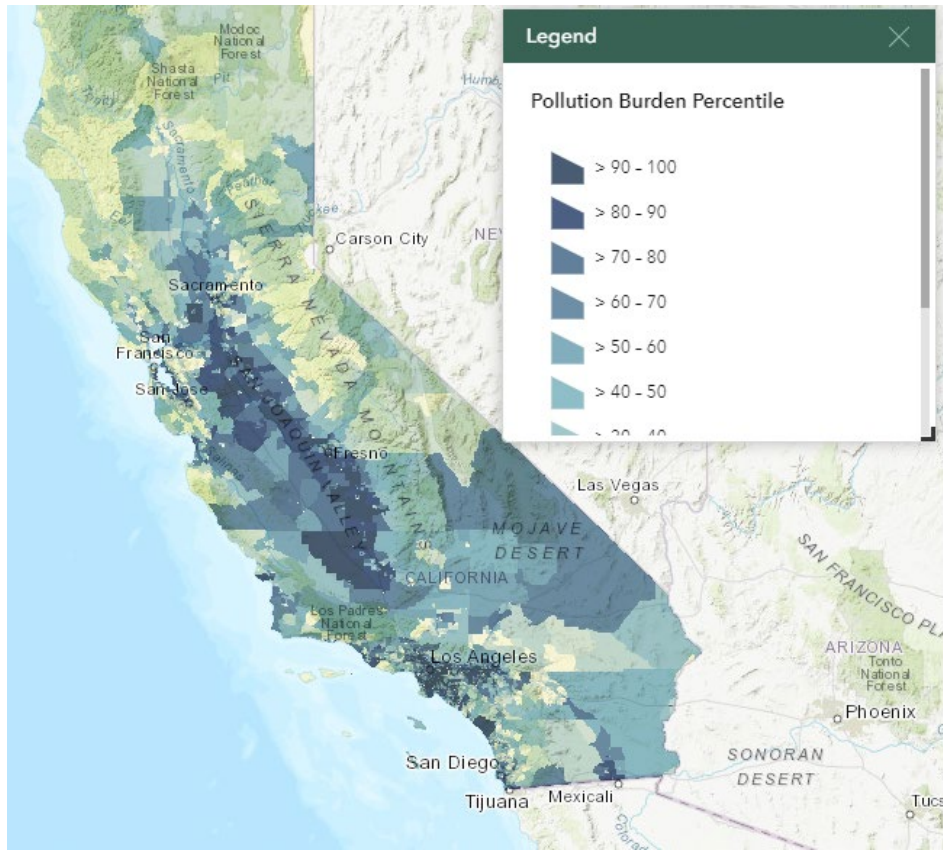


# Research Team:



# Research Support:





Cumulative Environmental Burden (CalEnviroScreen 4.0)

# Overview

1. Brief background on EJ movement & research gap
2. EJ Conflicts Database
3. Emerging patterns of injustice
  - Distribution of conflicts
  - Actor networks
  - Strategies
4. Next steps

Brief background

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EJ Research Gap



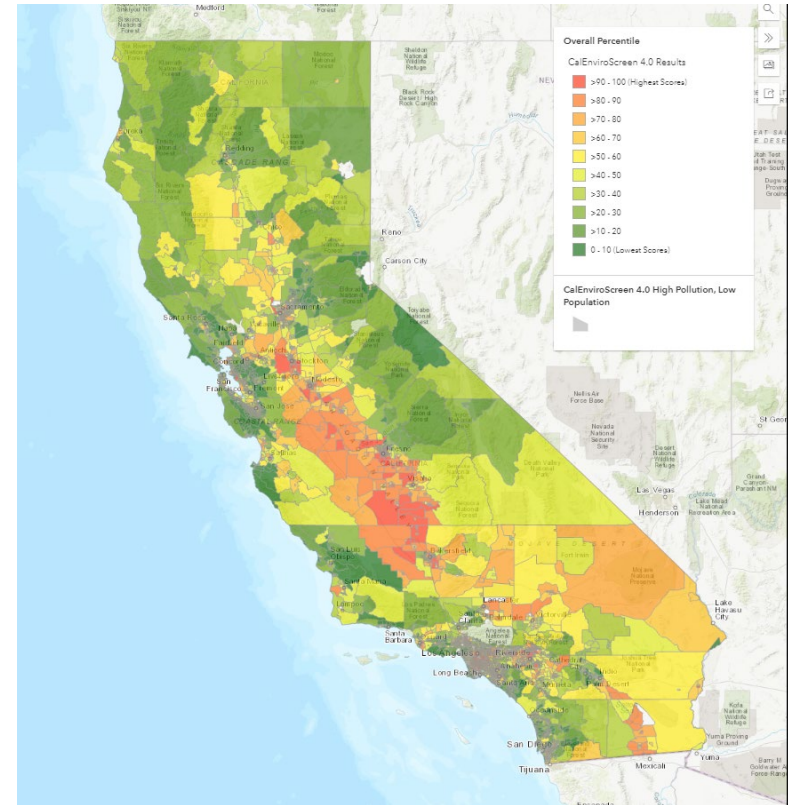
**Power plant in Long Beach, CA**

(Photo: J Rudnick)

# Environmental Justice (EJ) 101

- Wide evidence of structurally disempowered and oppressed communities experiencing:
  - Disproportionate exposure to environmental harms and lack of access to environmental goods
  - Underrepresentation in environmental decision-making processes
  - Lack of acknowledgement and reparations for centuries of harm
- Community-led EJ movement and resistance to extractive projects is strong

(Bullard et al. 2008; Mohai, Pellow, and Roberts, 2009; Schlosberg & Collins 2014)



Cumulative Pollution Burden across CA  
(CalEnviroScreen 4.0)

# California EJ Movement

## United Farm Workers 1960s



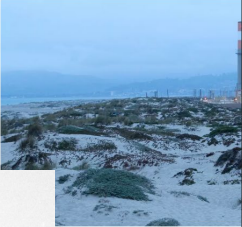
Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant protest (Photos: NYT)

## Current community-led EJ campaigns in CA

Los Angeles Times

CALIFORNIA

Oxnard residents are fighting slag heaps, power plants and oil fields that mar the town's beaches



...ating station at Mandaly Beach in Oxnard. (Myung J. Cho)

...ELL | WRITER  
7:3 AM PT

### PROTECT JURISTAC

#### NO QUARRY ON MUTSUN SACRED GROUNDS

Updates Sept. 10 Rally EIR Comments About Petition Statements of Support Photos Donate Curriculum Resources

AKHUT MISIMPI (WELCOME)

We invite you to stand with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in saying NO to sand and gravel mining at Juristac.

TIME REMAINING UNTIL END OF JURISTAC

### Aggro Action

#### Monterey Coastkeeper sues County Water Resources Agency over farming pollution.

Aggro Action

By Nina Abdallah Oct 23, 2016 (updated Aug 18, 2018)

Over 400 Join Rally for Juristac in S

Published September 24, 2022



This Week In Print

Issue September 15, 2022 - Two teachers from Salinas helped lead a summer program in Poland, offering a glimpse of normal life to 215 Ukrainian children.

Top Stories

The debate over Cal. A.G.'s... with popular first... alternative... center edge... with far-reaching... sources.

## EJ Conflicts Database

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Illuminating patterns in  
EJ conflicts across the  
state



Port of Los Angeles, CA  
(Photo: J. Rudnick)

# Open-access, interactive database of EJ conflicts

**California EJ Conflicts Interactive Map (DRAFT)**

**Case #55: Water Supply Infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta**

**Case Information**

**Case ID#** 55  
**Case Name** Water Supply Infrastructure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
**City** Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta  
**Case Status** Ongoing  
**Description** A plan to build a pipeline tunnel to transport water from Northern California to Southern California has been an ongoing conflict for several decades. Proposed by a coalition of water users, the Delta Regional Water Supply and Distribution Plan (DRWSDP) is a coalition of California water users. The Delta Regional Water Supply and Distribution Plan (DRWSDP) is a coalition of California water users. The Delta Regional Water Supply and Distribution Plan (DRWSDP) is a coalition of California water users.

**Location Information**

**Location ID#** 55.00  
**Area** California  
**Region** SF Bay-Delta Area  
**County** San Joaquin, Sacramento, Butte, Contra Costa, Solano  
**Latitude** 38.07  
**Longitude** -121.82  
**State Typology** Down Regional County/Office  
**Type of Population** None

**Community Demographics**

**People of Color** 0%  
**Low Income** 0%

**California EJ Conflict Cases**

Case ID#	Location ID#	Latitude	Longitude	Case Name	State	Region	County	Description	Status
1	1	32.495248	-117.139904	Industrial Pollution in Ben...	California	South Coast	San Diego	Water and Air Quality	San...
2	2	33.955053	-122.402428	Hazardous Chemical Rele...	California	SF Bay-Delta Area	Contra Costa	Chemical and Hazardous Waste	San...
3	2	34.042275	-118.242649	Green Spaces Access in La...	California	South Coast	Los Angeles	The City of Los Angeles' L...	Los...
5	5	37.723189	-122.568523	Power Plant in Bay Area/M...	California	SF Bay-Delta Area	San Francisco	Bay Area Nuclear Power's e...	Bay...

[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/25fcb324e8694b28a0e90c03bbe4ce12/page/Home/?data\\_id=dataSource\\_1-184c596c4c4c-layer-44-184e42bb2e7-layer-47%3A44](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/25fcb324e8694b28a0e90c03bbe4ce12/page/Home/?data_id=dataSource_1-184c596c4c4c-layer-44-184e42bb2e7-layer-47%3A44)



# Collecting and cataloguing EJ conflicts

Los Angeles Times

COURT allows Exide to abandon a toxic site in Vernon.  
Taxpayers will fund the cleanup



Portions of the shuttered Exide Technologies facility in Vernon, about 5 miles from downtown Los Angeles, are wrapped in white plastic to prevent the release of lead and other harmful pollutants. (A1 Seb) / Los Angeles Times

BY TONY BARBOZA | STAFF WRITER  
OCT. 16, 2020 UPDATED 1:39 PM PT

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Aggro Action  
Monterey Coastkeeper sues County Water Resources Agency over farming pollution.

Aggro Action  
By Kera Abraham Oct 21, 2010 Updated Aug 13, 2010



Black and Blanco: Coastkeeper Steve Orsini stands near the Monterey County Water Resources Agency's Blanco Drain, which conveys up-catchment olive water quality standards to the Salinas River.

This Week In Print



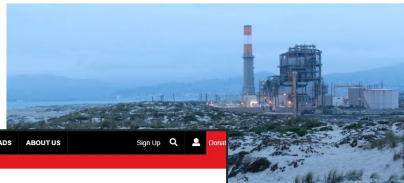
Issue September 15, 2022 - Two teachers from Salinas helped lead a summer program in Poland offering a glimpse of normal life to 20 Ukrainian children.

Top Stories

The debate over Cal Ag's desalination plant returns to center stage.  
Wildly popular hot dogs, labor tots and mikadoakes.  
Win her Voting Women

Los Angeles Times

Oxnard residents are fighting slag heaps, power plants and oil fields that mar the town's beaches



Chun / Los Angeles Times

SUBSCRIBERS ARE READING

LIFESTYLE FOR SUBSCRIBERS: They wanted their drought-tolerant yard to spark conversations. But not on Nextdoor

TRAVEL & EXPERIENCES 16 places in L.A. that make you feel like you've transported to Tokyo

SPORTS College football review: How Lincoln Riley's hot USC start affects Nebraska, Urban Meyer

PROTECT JURISTAC  
NO QUARRY ON MUTSUM SACRED GROUNDS

Updates Sept. 10 Rally ER Comments About Petition Statements of Support Photos Donate Curriculum Resources



AKA'UUT MISIMPI (WELCOME)  
We invite you to stand with the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band in saying NO to sand and gravel mining at Juristac.

THE REMAINING UNTIL END OF JURISTAC ER COMMENT PERIOD

KSJY

Home Local News Microbusiness Weather Crime Sports Community Customs Contact Us News Team  
Contributors Election 2022 Price of Paradise Kidnapper Suspect Equity, Opportunity, and Inclusion Priority Center Court

NEWS LOCAL NEWS

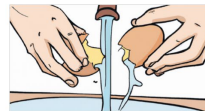
SLO Co. Air Pollution Control District ordered to pay Friends of the Ocean Dunes



THE OREGON JOURNAL REGISTER  
Environment

Crime Investigative Reporting Business Housing Politics Health Environment

TRENDING Queen Elizabeth funeral Deer swims in ocean off Laguna Beach Bengals, Soto power Angels win Sign up for Down Ballot DisneyLand Resort



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NEWS ENVIRONMENT News

Court OKs order to remove seawall protecting Laguna Beach home  
Coastal Commission had ruled that owners violated conditions of seawall by undertaking extensive home remodeling



# Research questions

1. **How are EJ conflicts distributed across the California coastal landscape, across communities, and across different resource types?**
1. **What EJ organizations, government entities, and industry/ private actors are involved in these conflicts? How are these actor-networks organized across conflicts?**
1. **What mobilization strategies are most commonly employed by EJ and extractive actors?**



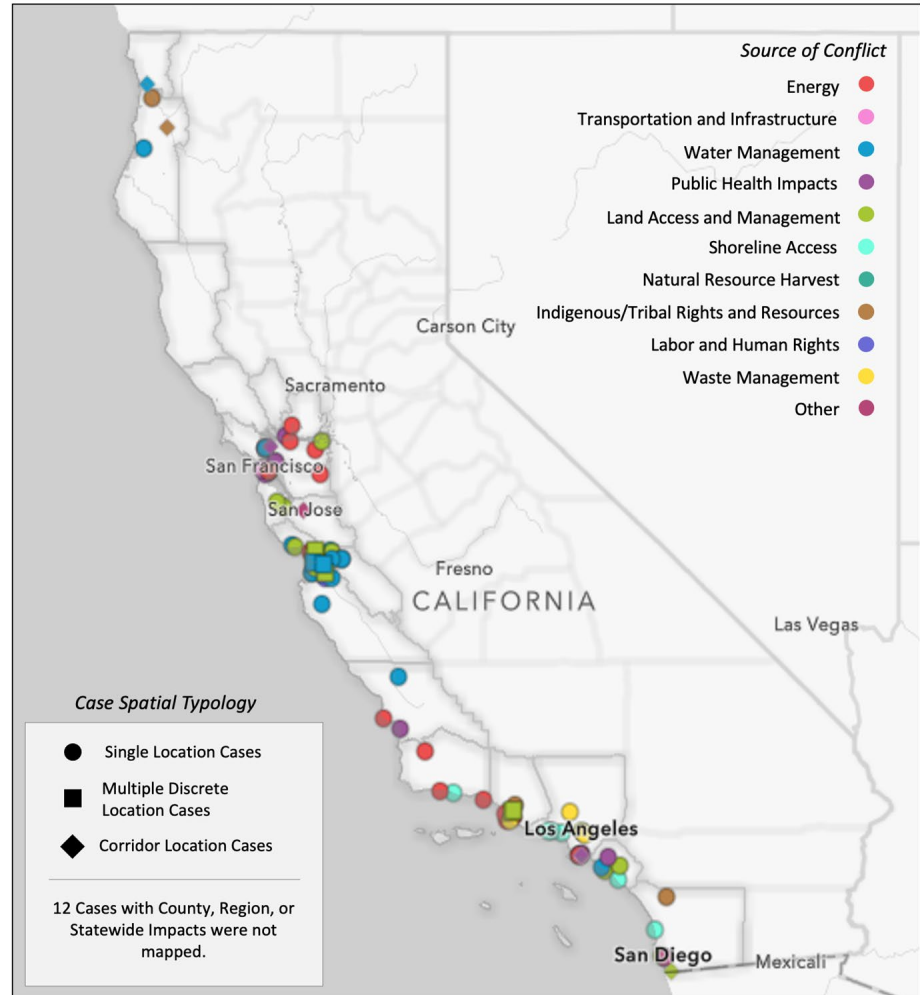
Dense oil field in Kern County, CA  
(Photo: J. Rudnick)

Emerging patterns of injustice

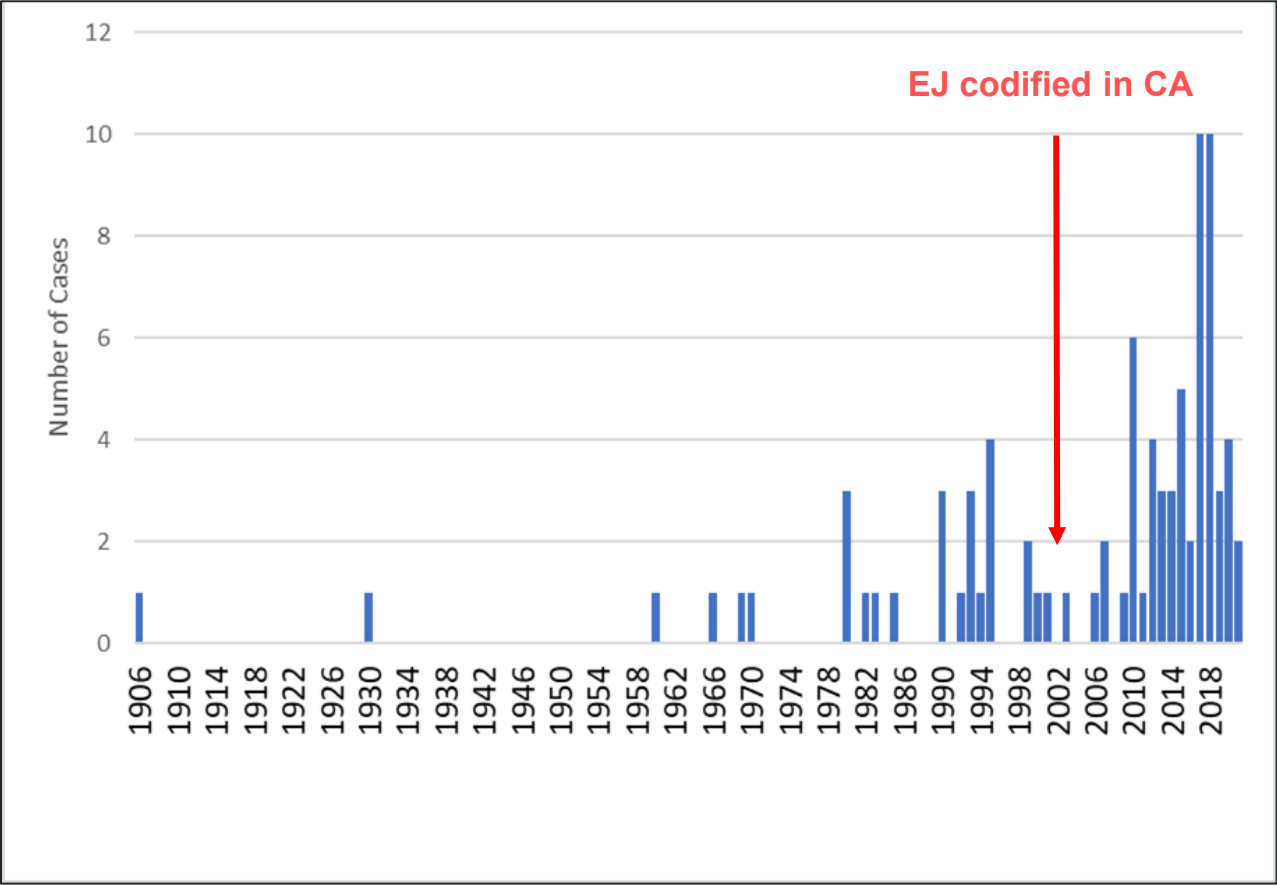
Conflict distribution,  
networks, & strategies

# Conflicts are concentrated in population-dense regions

- 87 cases across 19 coastal counties
- Geographic breakdown
  - North coast: 4 (5%)
  - SF Bay Area: 23 (27%)
  - Central coast: 33 (38%)
  - South coast: 24 (28%)
  - Statewide: 2 (2%)
- Populations impacted:
  - Urban=43 (50%)
  - Rural=31 (36%)
  - Suburban =11 (13%)

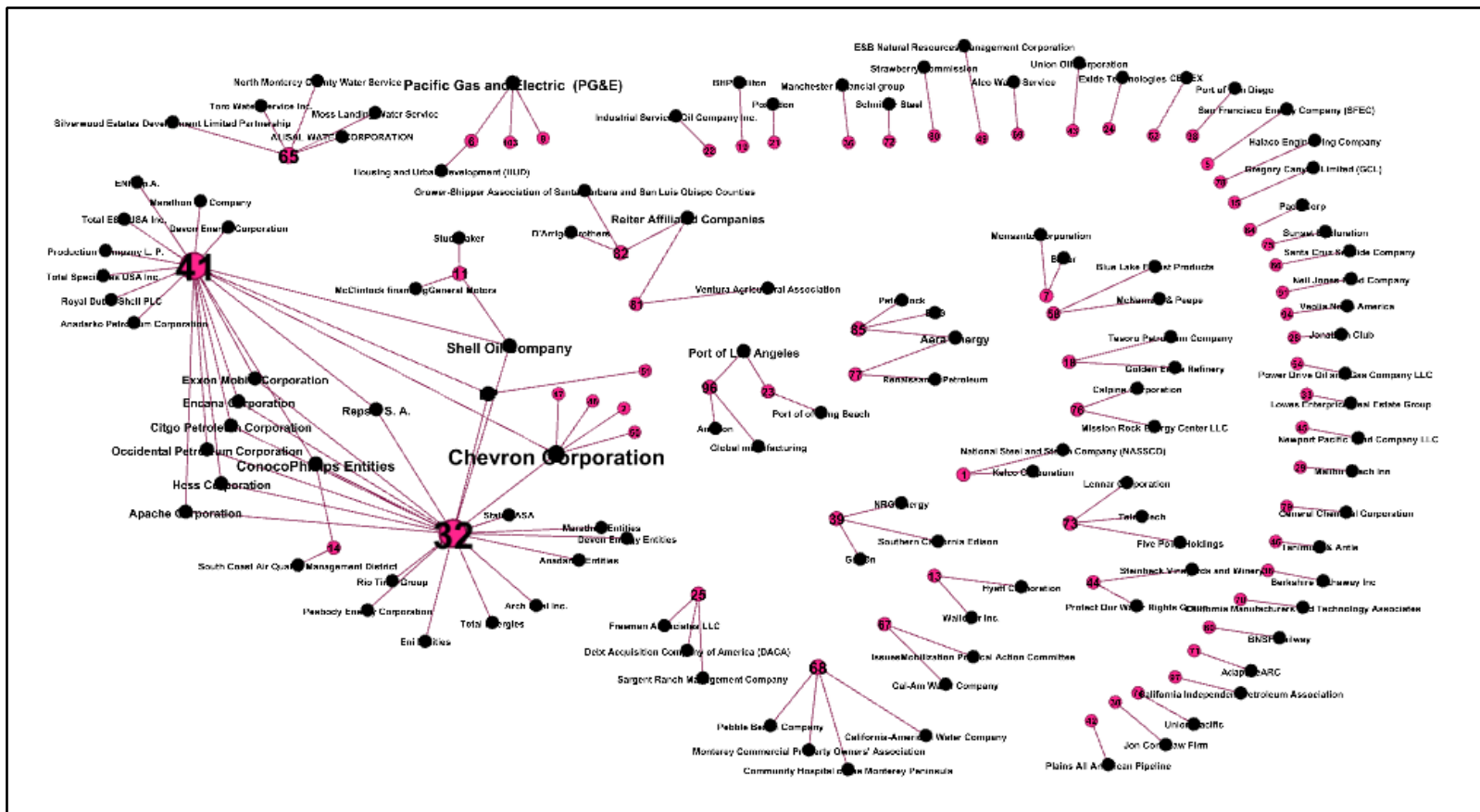


# EJ conflicts become more visible after EJ defined in CA statute



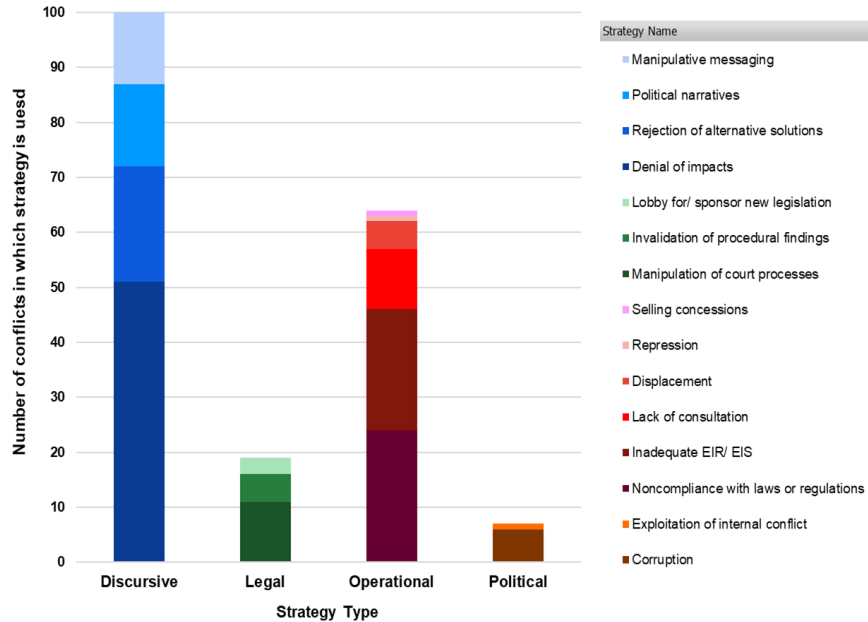


# Extractive activities actor network

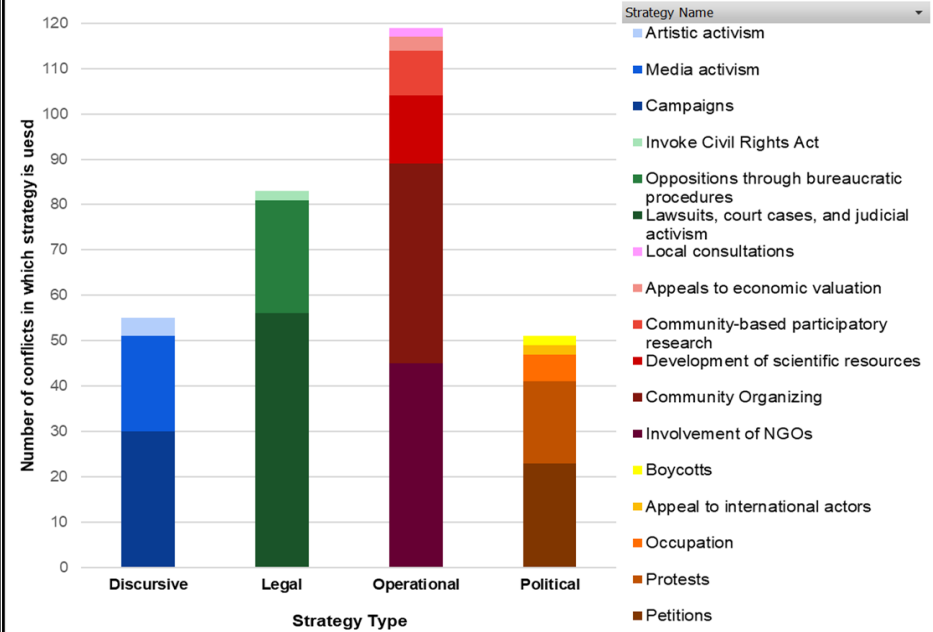


# Mobilization strategies

## Use of Extraction Strategies



## Use of Resistance Strategies





# Conflict outcomes

- **71 closed (82%)**
  - **16 on-going (18%)**
- 10% (n=7) no EJ success  
28% (n=20) compromise reached  
35% (n=25) harmful activity stopped  
27% (n=19) remediation, mitigation, or reparation payments

## EJ successes took different forms:

- Permit amended to account for EJ impacts
- Permit denied
- Project withdrawn
- Construction/ operations halted
- Changed regulations for more protection
- Polluter pays fines/ penalties/ cost of damages or clean up
- Other legal wins
- Community repossessed land



Amah Mutsun oppose gravel mining through protests (top) and opposition to bureaucratic procedure (bottom) (Photos: protectjuristac.org)

# Looking forward

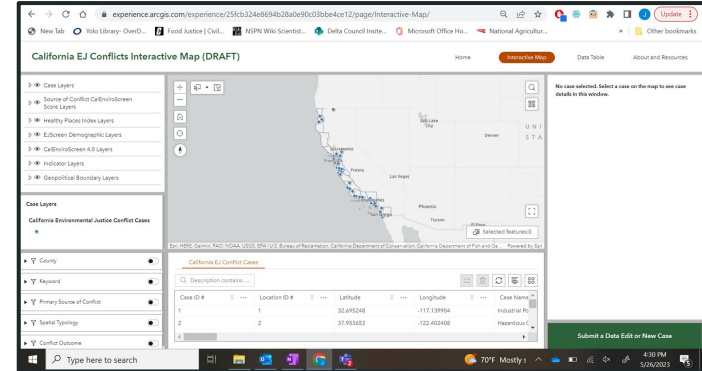


Climate protest Oakland, CA  
(Photo: CCEJA)

# Where do we go from here?

- Continue EJ expert review of database
- Fall 2023 workshop
- Public launch of database
- Continual updating and adding to repository
- Continued & more sophisticated analyses of cases across CA and other regions

Collaborate with us!



# Thank you

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Protesting Puente power plant proposed for Oxnard, CA  
(Photo: CAUSE)