

California Water Law Symposium  
EJ & Access to Clean Drinking Water Outline

- I. Laurel Firestone – Introduction of to the Panel (5 minutes)
  - a. Purpose of the panel – to understand the environmental justice struggles surrounding access to clean, safe and affordable drinking water.
  - b. Introduction to our panelists
  
- II. Prof. Kaswan - Introduction to the Environmental Justice Movement and the tools traditionally used to fight for environmental justice. (15 minutes)
  - a. The Emergence of the Environmental Justice Movement
    - i. The Late 1980's: An Emerging Awareness of Environmental Inequities
    - ii. The Causes of Environmental Inequities
      1. Historic and Ongoing Land Use Decisions
      2. The Limits of Environmental Law
    - iii. The Nature of the Environmental Justice Movement
  - b. Types of Justice Sought
    - i. Distributive Justice: Who Experiences What?
    - ii. Procedural/Political Justice: Participation *and* Being Heard
    - iii. Corrective and Social Justice
  - c. The Relationship Between the Environmental Justice and Environmental Movements
  - d. The Environmental Justice Movement's Primary Tools
    - i. Environmental Laws
    - ii. Civil Rights Laws
      1. The Equal Protection Clause
      2. Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act
    - iii. Environmental Justice Provisions in Federal and State Law
      1. Executive Order 12,898
      2. General State Initiatives to Study and Remedy Environmental Injustice
      3. Specific Efforts to Study and Fund Particular Projects
    - iv. Political Organizing: Key in Light of Limited Legal Options
  
- III. Laurel - the Rural Poverty Water Project – an overview (10 minutes)
  - a. What are the primary EJ struggles surrounding drinking water today?
    - i. Toxic Taps – the struggle for safe water
      1. Tonyville
      2. Groundwater contamination
    - ii. Filthy Faucets – the struggle for clean water
      1. Ducor
      2. Infrastructure and maintenance
    - iii. Platnum Pipes – the struggle for affordable water
      1. Alpaugh

- 2. Capital costs
    - iv. Dictatorial Districts – the struggle for democratic participation
      - 1. Orosi
      - 2. language access
  - b. Battlefields?
    - i. Central valley communities – Organizing and participation
    - ii. Local Government – The Tulare County General Plan
    - iii. Regional boards – Where is the protection?
    - iv. Sacramento – Legislative proposals
- IV. Susana De Anda – Grassroots Guru (10 minutes)
- a. Grassroots organizing in central valley communities
    - i. The communities
    - ii. The challenges
    - iii. The successes
  - b. The role of attorneys in community organizing.
  - c. Taking communities to the next level – inter-community organizing and the role of an organizer.
- V. Sandra Meraz – Water Warrior (10 minutes)
- a. Alpaugh
    - i. Description of the community of Alpaugh
    - ii. Alpaugh’s struggle for safe and affordable water
  - b. Sandra
    - i. Sandra’s path to activism around water
    - ii. Serving as a water board member – the struggles and rewards
- VI. Ruth Martinez – Si Se Puede! (10 minutes)
- a. Ducor
    - i. Description of the community of Ducor
    - ii. The fight for clean water
  - b. Ruth
    - i. Organizing community
    - ii. Getting on the water board
- VII. Questions (10 minutes)
- VIII. Laurel – Closing and Wrap Up