

Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety
**“Building a Foundation for Participatory Action Research with Agricultural
Worker Communities: An Environmental Justice Perspective”**

Abstract

Central Valley communities where agricultural workers and their families predominate are threatened by multiple sources of environmental pollution, including pesticide contamination of air and water, asthma-causing particulate matter, and leachate from hazardous waste facilities and disposal sites. Despite this concentration of risk, agricultural workers are rarely represented in public decision-making on the policies and practices that affect their lives. This proposed project seeks to address environmental injustices in the Central Valley by (1) conducting an inventory of existing research on the environmental health conditions of agricultural worker communities and of additional questions that members of these communities and their advocates want research to answer, and (2) analyzing an innovative policy experiment underway through the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to engage agricultural worker communities and their advocates in developing an environmental justice action plan.