



January 22nd, 2025

Landfill Methane Regulation Staff
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Public Comment Regarding Potential Updates to the Landfill Methane Regulation

Dear CARB Landfill Methane Regulation Staff,

Central California Environmental Justice Network uplifts low income communities of color in the San Joaquin Valley by ensuring access to clean air, water, land, and food sovereignty. As an organization, we are signing onto a letter submitted by a coalition of organizations. This letter is being submitted to pass along the comments and concerns of the residents of Avenal. In our experience, it is better for the residents if we assist in helping them submit their statements as opposed to giving them the submission website and asking them to figure it out on their own.

However, given recent events and personal concerns, some residents did not want to provide comment at this time. Therefore, at the end of the resident statements, we are including an excel spreadsheet that was received from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in a public records request listing the resident complaints that were submitted to them for the Avenal Landfill. The purpose is to show the number of Avenal residents being negatively impacted by the Avenal Landfill and how it is being operated and regulated in the absence of some of their comments today. It is their and our stance that if odors can be smelled in the community and their homes, both methane gas and landfill toxics are accompanying those odors.

The people of Avenal are pleading for help, both from the negative impacts of the poorly regulated and operated Avenal Landfill as well as from the negative climate change effects being experienced from methane gas emissions.

Fredo_aalvarez1481@gmail.com

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From: **Fredo** <aalvarez1481@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2025, 5:01 PM

Subject: Avenal Trash Dump

To: <veronica.aguirre@ccejn.org>

As someone who has lived in Avenal most of my life, my concern for the Landfill has progressively grown as I grown older. For one, my concern if my family's health and well being while living in Avenal, my parents grow older and the landfill grows bigger. There are many things that are dumped in that landfill from dead animals to fecal matter, chemicals, etc. All of those chemicals blow into the small town when there is gusts of winds, and the air quality progressively gets worse. I also show concernment towards the water, with all the trash piled up and smashed together all the liquids can lead into the water systems in town, the dirtier it gets, the more chemicals that are put into the water to try to get it cleaned up. In a town near over called Kettleman they also had a trash dumb that lead to birth defects to new born baby's due to the water that had been contaminated, who knows what it can lead to in the town of Avenal.

Zoe Etchison, zetchison196@gmail.com

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From: **Zoe Etchison** <zetchison196@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Jan 22, 2025, 4:59 PM

Subject:

To: Veronica Aguirre <veronica.aguirre@ccejn.org>

Growing up in Avenal about 10 years ago, I could always spot the lights of the prison as soon as I entered town, a clear landmark of where I was. But now, that view is blocked by the towering man-made hill of the local dump. It's hard to ignore. The dump, located right by the town's entrance, violates the safety standard that landfills should be at least 2 miles away from residential areas. The high school isn't far from it at all, and I remember cheering on the sidelines, struggling to focus on my moves because of the strong, awful smells coming from the dump. It was hard to ignore, and it distracted us all the time. My hometown isn't a joke to me, and I refuse to call it Ave-smell, California like the towns miles away would. Avenal used to be a place that felt like home, but it's not the same anymore, and I miss Avenal being Avenal. The people in this town, especially in the Hispanic community, are suffering in silence. They're dealing with toxic gases that reek of sulfur, but many are too afraid to speak out, worried that they'll be told to leave or that their concerns won't matter. It's frustrating to see how something so important for our health and safety has been ignored for so long. We've spent years fighting for change and we won't stop until our community is treated like one.

Julia Rodriguez

My name is Julia Rodriguez I am a resident from Avenal California I have severe asthma that makes it very hard for me to live a active life. There are days that I can not even leave my home because the air quality is so terrible In Avenal. Thanks to the assistance of CCEJN for helping me get a air purifier the air home seems to give me comfort but when I got outside I can not even enjoy gardening or walking a block to pick up my granddaughter from school. We need help to make the air quality requirements more strict.

Thank you
Julia Rodriguez

Michelle Loya, bryloe00@gmail.com

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From: **bryloe00** <bryloe00@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, Jan 23, 2025, 8:50 PM
Subject: Statement to CARB
To: <veronica.aguirre@ccejn.org>

My name is Michelle Loya from the community of Avenal California. I would like to express my concern over the need for stricter regulations for air quality. I live in a community where we have a landfill hundreds of feet from our homes along with oil and gas industry. We are also considered the Pistachio Capital so we are surrounded by fields. We have so many community members with asthma and other respiratory illness. Why is it that communities like ours are overlooked and not a concern. Agencies Monetize off our demographic being low income communities of color but we never see the progress. Where does this go? It goes to white communities with better health care. Stand up for the most sensitive communities and quit playing with our lives.

Thank you
Michelle Loya

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10+, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Carmen Alvarado

Mi nombre es carmen alvarado de avenal california quiero contarles que padezco de asma. No puedo trabajar porque lo único que sé es trabajar en el campo. No puedo estar afuera porque me enfermo. Mi familia sufre porque no puedo mantener a mi familia. Necesitamos ayuda con el aire que respiramos. Por favor ayúdanos a hacer las reglas más estrictas en lo que respecta al aire.

Gracias,
Carmen Alvarado
Avenal California

CCEJN Translation of the above comment:
(translation here)

Amulfo Acosta

Mi nombre es arnulfo acosta de avenal california. Quiero tomarme un

Gracias
Arnulfo Acosta

CCEJN Translation of the above comment:
(translation here)