

# No Longer Forgotten: Community Voices Rise Up in South San Joaquin

Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment

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## Forgotten Voices

- 1) Land use planning prioritizing wealthy communities and industries
- 2) Ignoring EJ communities' basic needs
- 3) Taking decision-making power away from communities

## Powerful Communities

- 1) Advancing EJ community priorities in land use planning
- 2) Getting community-IDed infrastructure needs funded and built
- 3) Building community leadership, self-governance, & resilience

## Arvin, CA

Population: 21,270

Median Income: \$36,524 (54% SMI)

CalEnviroScreen Score: Top 15-35%

- ▶ **Nov. 2018:** Pro-community health majority on city council maintained
- ▶ **Oct. 2018:** Lawsuit filed against Arvin for approving 4 new wells
- ▶ **July 2018:** Updated oil & gas ordinance passed
- ▶ **Nov. 2016:** Progressive City Council members elected
- ▶ **2016:** Advocacy for updating antiquated oil & gas ordinance continued
- ▶ **2014:** First restrictive oil and gas ordinance defeated, 3-2
- ▶ **2014:** Nelson Court pipeline gas leak
- ▶ **2009:** CBA designed vision for green jobs and climate justice
- ▶ **2007:** Committee for a Better Arvin (CBA) formed; began working on cleanup of groundwater and toxic recycling facility





See this [video](#) about Arvin's incredible journey toward a cleaner, oil free community

Proposed well site next to existing homes.



# How to Be a Good Neighbor



Protest against polluting recycling facility in 2011.

**Community Investment:**  
\$30,000-  
\$100,000  
expected  
annually

**Pollution Reduction:**  
Litter and odor  
reduction  
measures



**Accountability:**  
Stakeholder  
Committee,  
complaint  
hotline, etc.





Newly renovated Rexland Park, Kern County.



Community garden in Shafter Mexican Colony.

## ➤ 2019: Comprehensive Reform

-Environmental justice Policies in Kern County's General Plan

-More infrastructure investments in Low-income Communities of Color