



FIELD NOTES: Environmental Health Coalition

Environmental Health Coalition is a grassroots organization using social change strategies to achieve environmental justice throughout the San Diego/Tijuana region. The primary goal of Environmental Health Coalition (EHC) is to prevent clean up toxic pollution threatening the health and environment of the San Diego/Tijuana region. To accomplish this goal EHC works to motivate and empower individuals and communities to take action and become involved in long-term campaigns and to hold industry, the military and other government agencies accountable.

Organizing goal: To increase EHC ability to motivate and empower people to take action and become involved in long-term campaigns.

Organizing Work Areas:

1. **Popular education:** Educate constituency of health hazards and environmental degradation.
2. **Base building:** Build a base of members to participate in organizing in environmental justice issues and organizing campaigns.

What technology was used?

1. **Geographic Information System (GIS)** is a mapping software that combines layers of information (population demographics, environmental conditions, voting trends) about a specific geographic area to better understand the social, economic and environment patterns of a community.
2. **Presentation Technology** was used to educate community members about environmental hazards trends in their area and issues that EHC is working on.

Capacity Needs:

1. **Hardware** EHC needed a powerful computer with 21" monitor to view mapping images.
2. **Software** EHC purchased GIS software – ESRI's ArcView, ARC IMS map server software, and acquired data required to assess and map community redevelopment and lead hazard abatement.
3. **TA expertise needed and used:** EHC hired a GIS/Internet Consultant
4. **Training needed and used:** ESRI provides a 3-day ArcView/GIS training monthly, EHC sent 1 of 2 staff members with basic GIS capacity to receive advance training.
5. **Staff time:** EHC recognized the need to allot personnel time for training and production.

Finances: EHC estimated a project budget of approximately \$20,000. EHC applied and received a \$9,250 grant from PTP to pay for a consultant and staff training and to purchase equipment and software. Personnel and indirect costs were covered in the general support budget.

Software: For ESRI GIS products call 800-447-9778 or visit their websites:

1. ESRI.com also provides a list of free software, data, and resources
2. GIS.com provides a list of free software and tools, in addition to commercial GIS software

Training: ESRI provides various training plus they provides a list of ESRI authorized teaching programs on their website www.esri.com

Impact:

1. **Popular Education, Outreach and Training:** deepened understanding by community members of complex issues
2. **Empowerment:** community residents are motivated and empowered to take action
3. **Media Coverage:** reach wider audience and inform the public about health effects of toxic pollution