

Role of Communities In Community Health Collaborations

APHA Annual Meeting
November 5, 2007



Marlene Grossman, M.A.
Founder and Former Executive Director
Pacoima Beautiful

Community of Pacoima

Located in Northeast San Fernando Valley in the City of L.A.

Over 100,000 people

6.2 square miles

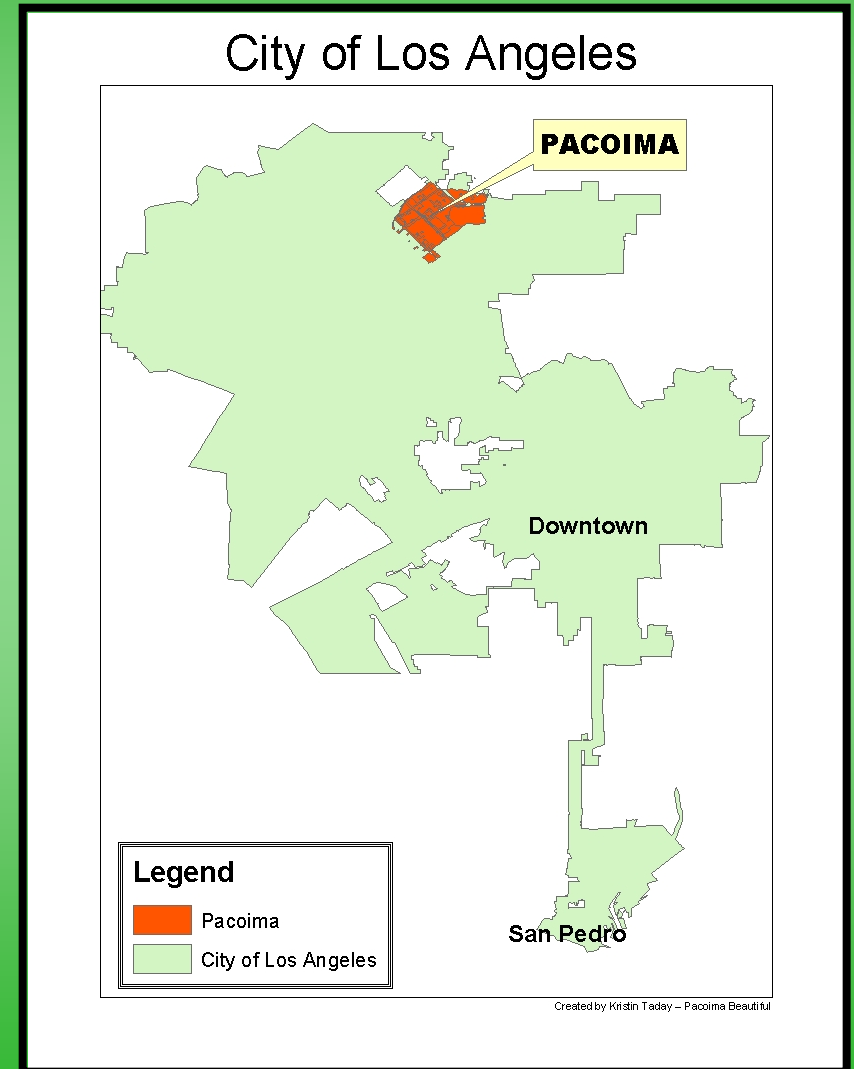
Surrounded by 3 major freeways

Over 30 Landfills – L.A.'s Largest Bradley Landfill

Private Airport in center of community

Over 300 Industries

Over 40 liquor stores



Pacoima Area - Air, Water, Waste Sites -- Preliminary Data Assessment --

USEPA CERCLIS/Superfund

USEPA CERCLIS/Superfund Sites

Solid Waste (SWIS) Sites

TRANSFORMATN_fac (SWIS)

- Closed
- Active
- Planned

WASTE To ENERGY (SWIS)

- Closed
- Active
- Planned

TRANSFER Fac (SWIS)

- Closed or Inactive
- Active
- Planned

DISPOSAL Fac (SWIS)

- Closed or Inactive
- Active

COMPOST Fac (SWIS)

- Active

Water Board Sites

CaseType

- Soil
- Groundwater, other than drinking

CaseType

- Groundwater, other than drinking

NPDES_GrpT

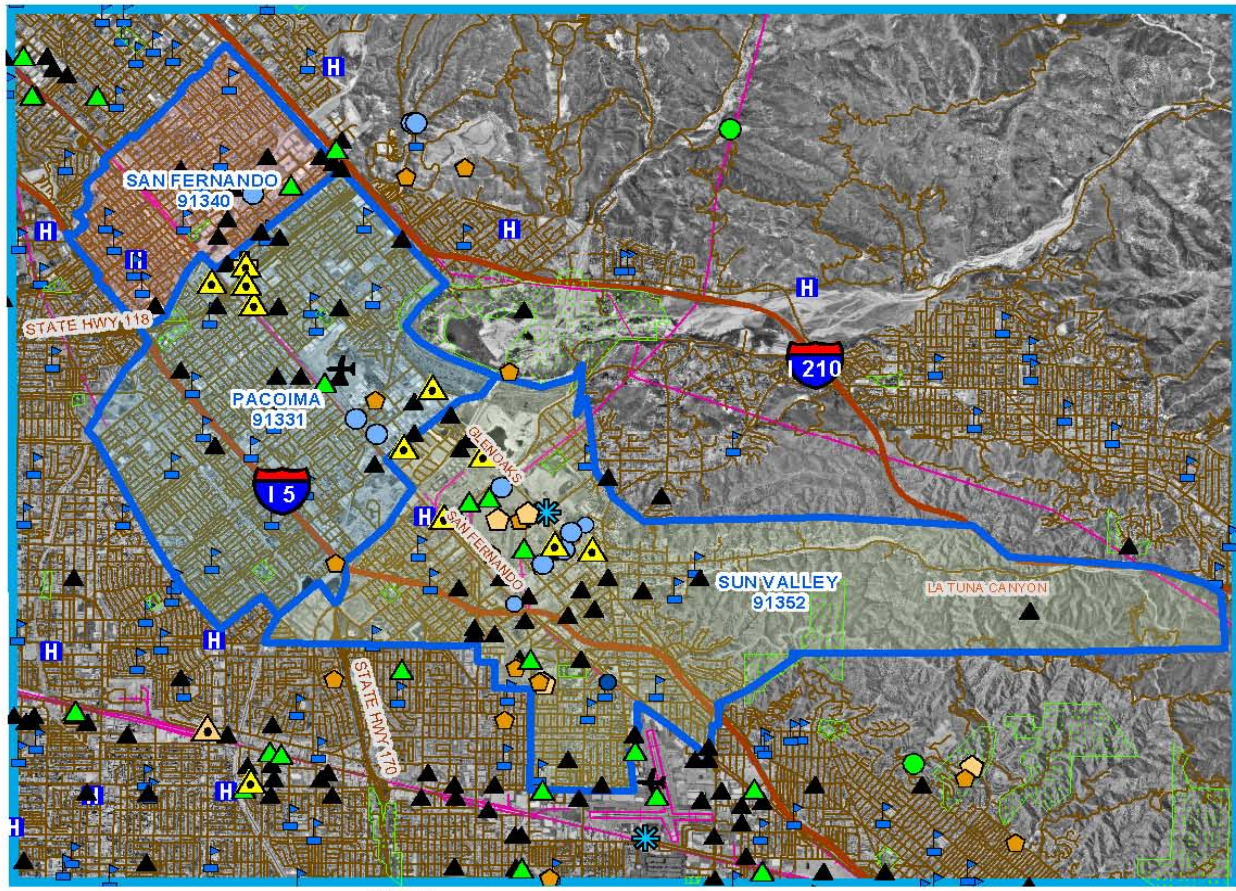
- INDUSTRIAL
- MUNICIPAL
- OTHER

Waste Board Sites

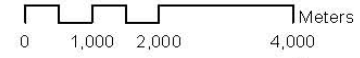
- CalSites (Site Remediation/Brownfields)
- DTSC Generators-over 2000 tons
- DTSC RCRA Facilities
- DTSC Site Cleanup Projects

Air Board Facilities

- ARB- CHAPIS Facilities
- ARB- Other Facilities - CEIDARS
- Intermodal Facilities NTAD
- Schools
- Hospitals
- Airports
- Parks
- Railroads



Other



Draft ARB-PTSD-EIB/ 12-16-05



Pacoima Beautiful

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & ADVOCACY

Founded by 5 women from Pacoima as a beautification committee

Evolved into grassroots non-profit organization to serve the community of Pacoima

Empowers the Pacoima community through programs that provide environmental education, advocacy and leadership in order to foster a healthy and safe environment. Community residents have always driven the programs and projects.

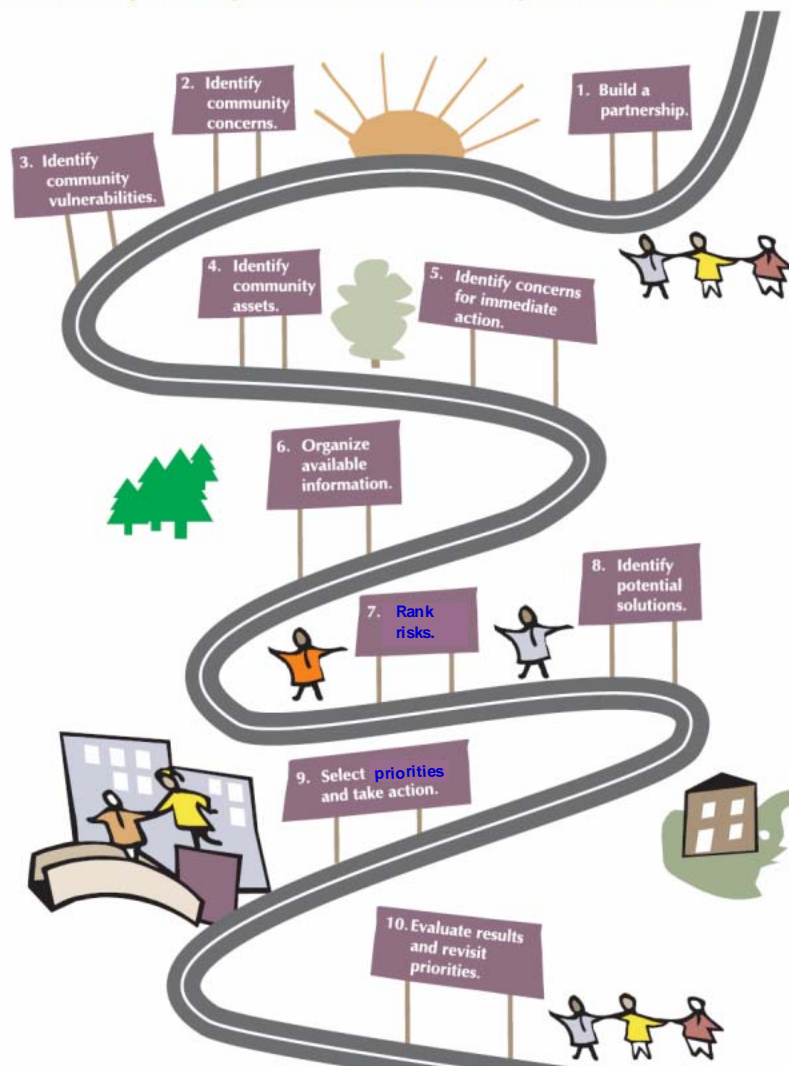
Pacoima Beautiful History of Collaboration

- Collaboration with City of Los Angeles
- Partnerships with university faculty, elected officials, other non profit organizations, regulatory agencies
- Relationship built with EPA in 2004 through Collaborative Problem Solving Grant
- CARE I & II

CARE Roadmap

1. Build a partnership
2. Identify community concerns
3. Identify community vulnerabilities
4. Identify community assets
5. Identify concerns for immediate action
6. Organize available information
7. Rank risks
8. Identify potential solutions
9. Set priorities and take action
10. Evaluate results and revisit priorities

The Roadmap: Ten Steps to a Healthier Community and Environment



Pacoima Risk Ranking

- **Pre-planning (!):** identified who should be there; set expectations of what people should bring, be prepared to decide
- **Meeting:** Described process, focus on risk only (including uncertainties and vulnerabilities)
- **Agreed to 18 issues** (expanded list of 16 provided ahead of time)
- **Presented data on each of the issues, with large variations in what was known**
- **Split into pre-assigned tables of 7-8 people, ranked risks (flexible), gathered as a group, achieved overall consensus**

High

- Diesel trucks and nonroad equipment
- Whiteman airport
- Small point sources
- Highway and major arterials

Medium-High

- Super-emitting cars
- Lead
- Second-hand smoke

Medium

- Indoor mold
- Indoor cleaners
- Stormwater
- Waste – bulky items
- Landfills

Medium-Low

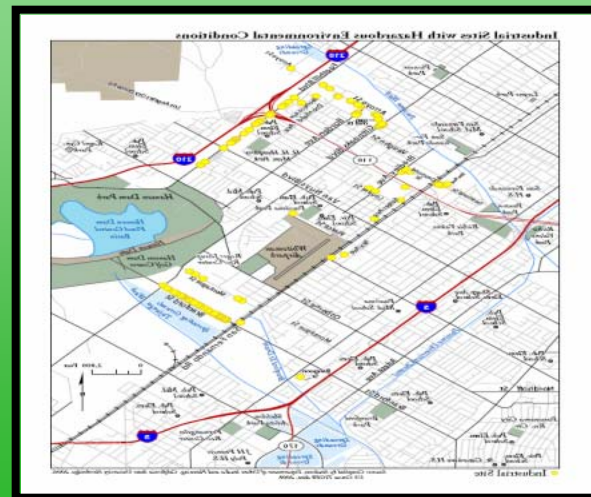
- Waste – hazardous
- Soil – UST & brownfields
- Indoor – vapor intrusion

Low

- Radon
- Point – major other than landfills
- Soil – unlined sumps

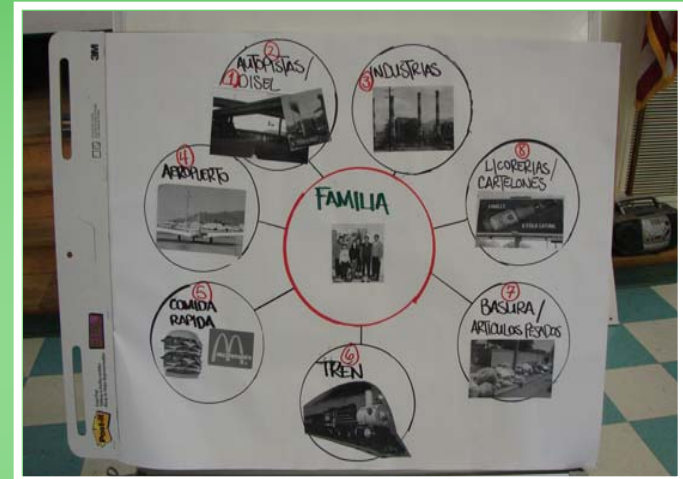
Collaboration from Community Perspective

- Residents know the issues, have local on the ground understanding of sources and physical impacts
- Partners work with local groups at community level to gather information
- Regulatory agencies provide technical oversight, provide community with expertise and credibility
- Together all partners/collaborators can effect positive change



10 Steps to Working with Communities

1. Encounter/Contact
2. Communication
3. Mutual Understanding
4. Respect
5. Time Commitment
6. Relationship-building
7. Learning – Technical Information/Tools
8. Propose, not impose
9. Accountability/Keeping Your Word
10. Real People Working with Real People to Solve Real Problems



Thank you!



Marlene Grossman
Pacoima Beautiful

11243 Glenoaks Blvd. #1
Pacoima, Ca. 91331
marsplan@aol.com