



Environmental Justice Achievement Award

Non-Governmental Organization



Communities for a Better Environment



Ms. Peace giving an interview on the issue of flaring



Flare at the Conoco Phillips Refinery in Rodeo

EPA is pleased to present a 2008 Environmental Justice Achievement Award to **Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) for its work to build healthy communities through legal, scientific, and community support in neighborhoods most impacted by environmental hazards.**

CBE was a leader in getting the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to adopt a Flare Control Rule (July 20, 2005), the first rule in the nation requiring all feasible measures to prevent petroleum refinery flaring. Emissions from flares were cut by 90 percent in the Bay Area; flares had been the area's largest unregulated air pollution source. CBE also led a campaign that resulted in the removal of a five-story-high pile of rubble from the 1994 Northridge earthquake. The rubble produced hazardous levels of dust, including particulate matter, and sat next to a residential neighborhood and park for seven years.

In 2006, CBE sponsored and staffed the Institute for Building Leadership, a series of 10 facilitated half-day sessions that built community leadership and trained community members on community health, environmental justice, and cumulative impact analysis. CBE has continued to discuss best practices and successes through participation in workgroups, publication of its work, and presentations at state and national conferences.

