

CBE's Board of Directors Announces CBE's Newest Executive Director--Darryl Molina Sarmiento, CBE's Former Southern California Director.



Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) an environmental justice organization that has grown to national acclaim by using the Triad Model of community organizing, research, and legal support in its campaigns for environmental justice (EJ). CBE builds local power in Wilmington (Los Angeles), South East Los Angeles (SELA), East Oakland, and Richmond and amplifies the priorities and voices of our communities within our local, regional, statewide, and national EJ efforts. CBE works with its members to not only prevent increased pollution in already over-burdened communities, but also to envision and enact a Just Transition towards clean energy and healthy, empowered communities with an improved quality of life.

CBE's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Darryl Molina Sarmiento will continue to lead this important work as CBE's new Executive Director. Darryl has a long and rich history with the organization, having first encountered CBE at the age of 18, when she took one of our Toxic Tours in Southern California. Later, in 2005, she formally joined CBE as Southern California's Youth Program Coordinator. In that role, Darryl organized youth to defeat the Vernon Power Plant and led, a statewide campaign against pollution trading.

In 2011, Darryl transitioned into the role of CBE's Southern California Program Director where she managed and oversaw campaign planning, implementation and evaluation for CBE's Southern California operations. During her tenure as Southern California Director, she coordinated CBE community members, organizers, policy and science staff and attorneys and supervised CBE organizers and CBE Action staff. Darryl's leadership has helped to shape CBE's overall organizational management and fundraising, including the development of CBE Action,—CBE's 501c(4) arm.

Never straying far from her community organizing roots, Darryl also has been at the helm of successful community-based campaigns against the fossil fuel industry and against toxic polluters such as Exide Technologies, a lead acid battery recycling facility. Darryl was instrumental in leading the passage of a City of Los Angeles ordinance—Clean Up Green Up—one of the first Environmental Justice Green Zone Policies in the nation. She has worked on the

passage of statewide energy and climate policy, and has worked to advanced local clean energy and transportation goals. Darryl also co-chaired the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling-Los Angeles Coalition (STAND LA) to advance a City of Los Angeles policy to end neighborhood oil drilling.

Now, in her 12th year with CBE, Darryl brings the necessary vision and energy to serve as CBE's next Executive Director. With her deep organizing skills, her respected presence in the community,, and knowledge of the organization, she embodies CBE's leadership ladder. Darryl assumed the role on July 1, 2017. Byron Gudiel will stay on through July to assist in the leadership transition process.

"Darryl is an established base builder and is widely respected in the environmental justice movement for her wise and collaborative leadership. The Board looks forward to working with Darryl as she brings CBE's visionary and transformative organizing model to all new heights."

- Suma Peesapati, Board Chair

"I am excited and happy about the Board's decision. Darryl has been critical to CBE's growth and success and now she lends her experience and leadership to our entire organization."

- Byron Gudiel, outgoing Executive Director

"I am deeply honored to serve as CBE's Executive Director," said Molina Sarmiento. "As a woman of color, a mother, and someone that has risen from CBE's staff leadership pipeline, I am overjoyed to continue the deep legacy of the work of our communities, our members and our staff into CBE's next phase of growth and success. I am excited to work with the amazing CBE team to advance our Transformative Organizing Model to center our members and our organizing strategy to build more power in our communities. We have the solutions for a just transition from polluting and profit driven industries towards a local, clean, just energy economy for our earth and our people."

Thank you for your ongoing support. Please join me in welcoming Darryl Molina Sarmiento to her new role as CBE's Executive Director.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Suma Peesapati', with a small dot at the end.

Suma Peesapati
CBE Board Chair