



2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Our Year of Growth

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Hello PSR-LA Members and Friends,

As we approach the end of another transformative year, we take great pride and express our gratitude in sharing a snapshot of the meaningful work accomplished by PSR-LA with you. Our dedication to serving on the PSR-LA board is driven by a profound belief in the organization's mission and its critical role in advocating for health-centered policies and environmental justice. As honored board members, each of us has a unique story explaining why we remain committed to the cause of positive change — from a strong sense of responsibility to ensure healthy environments for future generations to extending the Hippocratic Oath beyond medical offices. Our sustained involvement reflects a broader, deep commitment to environmental justice and health equity.

Over the years, PSR-LA has emerged as a prominent advocate, urging lawmakers to recognize that a healthier community hinges on holding polluters accountable, ensuring universal access to quality healthcare, abolishing nuclear weapons, and combating racism in all its forms. However, our successes did not come without pushback. The oil industry has mobilized over \$100 million to overturn SB 1137. This critical legislation bars new oil wells within 3,200 feet of sensitive land uses, including schools, libraries, hospitals, and residences. Our fight to prevent Big Oil from choosing profit over people will continue well into 2024.

We appreciate your continued support and belief in the mission of PSR-LA. As we reflect on our accomplishments and the challenges that lie ahead, we invite you to join us in our mission to create positive change. Your support will empower PSR-LA and contribute to building a healthier, safer, and more just world for all.

Warm regards,

Board Co-Presidents, Robert Dodge, MD. & Yazeed Ibrahim, MD. & PSR-LA Board, Jimmy Hara, MD. Hector Llenderrozos, MD. Jose Quiroga, MD. Jose Ramos, MD. Maral Hassanshahi Margaret Wacker, MD. Mary Haffner Nicole Vick



2023 AT GLANCE



New Look, Same PSR-LA

PSR-LA has a refreshed website design. Users will discover an improved, more user-friendly experience alongside an exciting visual update.

Taking (Political) Action

PSR-LA is in the process of establishing a 501(c)(4) that will enable us to participate in political actions.



All Around the World

PSR-LA went international this year, with staff actively participating in the Second Meeting of State Parties to the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Climate Week in New York, INC-2 in Paris, France, and INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya.



Welcome A-Board Member

PSR-LA is thrilled to welcome Maral Hassanshahi, PT, DPT, to our Board of Directors! Her expertise will help drive our mission to foster healthier and more resilient communities across Southern California and beyond.

A Full House

Our team has expanded from 14 to 22 staff members, and we are excited to have these valuable additions to PSR-LA.



 Lucia Ruan, Development Associate | 2. Bonita Chateau, Finance & Administration Associate
Adan Garcia, Air Quality Program Manager | 4. Estephanie Garcia, Air Quality Education & Outreach Associate | 5. Deja McCauley, Land Use & Health Program Manager | 6. Emma Silber, Climate Justice Associate | 7. Maylene Hughes, Grassroots Organizing & Policy Coordinator, Nuclear Threats Program 8. Lillian Hogle, Executive Assistant & Special Projects Coordinator
Tiffany Rivera, Climate Health Project Coordinator

CAPTIVATING LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUDIENCES FOR A SAFER WORLD

In the pursuit of nuclear abolition, PSR-LA's Nuclear Threats program has harnessed the power of film, built strong coalitions, and championed our cause from local impact to national influence.

ADVANCING NUCLEAR ABOLITION WITH BACK FROM THE BRINK

PSR-LA continued its prominent role in the national grassroots coalition, Back from the Brink (BftB), to make substantial strides in garnering support for nuclear abolition at the local and federal levels. Notably, the coalition succeeded in building support for House Resolution (H.Res.) 77, introduced to the U.S. House of Representatives this year, thanks to legislative champions Rep. Jim McGovern (D-MA)



and Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR). This resolution calls upon the United States to adopt BftB's comprehensive policy platform and to embrace the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. So far, H.Res. 77 has garnered over 40 co-sponsorships from House Members, and BftB's policy platform has gained approval from 80 — and counting — municipal, county, and state legislative bodies nationwide. In the upcoming year, BftB is committed to expanding this support by securing additional co-sponsors from the California delegation and local resolutions to pursue a world free from nuclear weapons.

OPPENHEIMER AND THE POWER OF FILM

The debut of *Oppenheimer* in theaters marked a unique opportunity for PSR-LA. The feature film captivated the public with the history of nuclear weaponry and its global ramifications. Building on the momentum, PSR-LA partnered with the Ploughshares Fund and the Bombshelltoe Policy & Arts Collective to host a special screening and organized an expert panel discussion that featured PSR-LA Director of Energy Justice Alex Jasset and Melissa Bumstead of Parents vs. Santa Susana Field Lab. The sold-out event served as a testament to the growing public interest in nuclear threats, solidifying our commitment to fostering meaningful conversations around global ramifications.



Top: Denise, Alex, and Maylene with Board President Dr. Dodge, and Board Member Maral at the UN during the 2nd Conference of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons **Bottom**: Oppenheimer panelists from left to right- Dr. Emma Belcher (Ploughshares Fund), Dr. Nola Haynes (CNAS), Melissa Bumstead (Parents vs. SSFL), and Alex Jasset (PSR-LA)

FROM LOCAL IMPACT TO NATIONAL INFLUENCE

While actively participating in national coalitions, our program remained vigilant at the local level by joining forces with Parents vs. SSFL to address concerns over weakened cleanup standards at the Santa Susana Field Lab. The Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC) unveiled its Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Santa Susana Field Lab cleanup in June. The PEIR reflects DTSC's 2022 secret settlement agreement with Boeing, which violated agreements that required a complete cleanup, instead allowing most of the contamination to remain onsite. PSR-LA swiftly joined forces with Parents vs. SSFL to rally local elected officials and the community in opposition to the PEIR.

We are deeply concerned that the PEIR will conform with the protocol and standards for the cleanup detailed in the so-called Settlement Agreement completed last year, May 2022, between Boeing and DTSC. That agreement is woefully inadequate and substantially weakens the Consent Order of 2007 and the Administrative Order on Consent of 2010, calling for full cleanup by 2017.

- Larry Yee, Former Chair of the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Board

But that's not all. Associate Director Denise Duffield and Alex Jasset, along with 50 passionate activists and community members, embarked to Washington, D.C., for the 35th annual D.C. Days hosted by the Alliance for Nuclear Accountability (ANA).

During these intensive days, our team met with influential congressional and administration officials to champion nuclear disarmament and comprehensive cleanup efforts at Santa Susana and similar contaminated nuclear sites.

At the culmination of D.C. Days, ANA members met with approximately 50 representatives to discuss policies to safeguard the health of communities residing near nuclear weapons and waste sites.





Top: Alex and Denise in Washington D.C. for DC Days **Bottom:** Melissa and Grace Bumstead with Denise after meeting with congressional staff during DC Days

ENERGIZING CHANGE: GROWING OUR ENERGY PROGRAM

Our newly established Energy Justice Program has taken PSR-LA in new directions, solidifying our commitment to advancing energy justice and grounding climate solutions in environmental justice principles. Establishing the LA for Resilient and Healthy Homes (LARHH) coalition and our active engagement in the Building Energy Equity and Power (BEEP) coalition underscore our pivotal role in advancing a holistic healthy homes approach.

EXPANSION OF OUR ENERGY PROGRAM

Over the years, PSR-LA has concentrated on local and statewide energy work under our Climate Justice program. As this effort matured, we recognized the need to formalize our efforts into its own distinct program, leading to the expansion of our Energy Justice Program. The emerging program, as described by Director of Energy Justice Alex Jasset, builds on the amazing accomplishments of the Climate team and primarily focuses on advancing healthy home policies, equitable building decarbonization, and fighting against false climate solutions.

BUILDING RESILIENT AND HEALTHY HOMES

Driven by the pressing need to foster resilient and healthy homes and reduce building carbon emissions, PSR-LA joined forces with community partners to create the LARHH coalition.

This dynamic alliance collaborates closely with the City of LA's Climate Emergency Mobilization Office, City Council members, and local government departments. Together we actively propel equitable building decarbonization policies,

advocating for a comprehensive policy platform incorporating health, labor, and tenant protections. 56

PSR-LA has been involved directly and indirectly for decades with energy issues. from nuclear power to oil and gas extraction. We recognize the need to engage in local, regional, and statewide advocacy within the energy sector to advance a Just Transition. Our goal is to ensure that climate and energy solutions are grounded in environmental justice principles, preventing the exacerbation or repetition of past injustices. The emerging Energy Justice Program is building off of the amazing accomplishments of the Climate team. It primarily focuses on advancing healthy home policies, including equitable building decarbonization, and fighting back against false climate solutions like hydrogen and carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS). We aspire to expand the program to include other crucial priorities, including community-owned solar, addressing the water-energy nexus, and advocating for grid resiliency improvements.

- Alex Jasset, Director of Energy Justice

The focus is on addressing the specific needs of low-income and BIPOC communities, ensuring they are included in and benefit from the outcomes of climate policies. As a tangible outcome of our collective efforts, a public-facing report, "Defining an Equitable & Just Transition to Building Decarbonization," emerged from this invaluable work.



ADVANCING EQUITABLE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION

Our collaboration with the LARHH coalition directly supports our leadership role in the BEEP coalition, contributing to a comprehensive approach to building decarbonization at the state level.

We have engaged with the Climate Energy Commission (CEC) through BEEP to shape policy quidelines, ensuring а strona alignment with the coalition's communitycentered approach. We have also developed close working relationships with the California Air Resources Board and the California Public Utilities Commission. These growing relationships empower us to hold government agencies accountable for ensuring an equitable transition from gas to electrification and building decarbonization.

Left: Energy Equity Policy Coordinator Edgar Baraza speaking at a CEC Workshop for the Equitable Building Decarbonization Program **Right:** Alex and Edgar with members of the

CBE/Gridworks Equity & Hydrogen Initiative group, part of our growing Hydrogen efforts



REINFORCING ENERGY EQUITY AND COLLABORATION

In December, PSR-LA had the privilege of hosting the Equitable Building Electrification Fund (EBEF)-funded hydrogen convening in Los Angeles. The EBEF, soon to be rebranded as Collectrify, is a pioneering energy fund led by frontline communities dedicated to redefining the balance of ownership and distribution of energy production infrastructure and housing.

This groundbreaking event brought together approximately 35 environmental justice partners from across the nation, along with local and statewide collaborators, with two primary objectives: 1) sharing, learning, and discussing organizing efforts nationwide to foster a collaborative national hydrogen strategy, and 2) providing strategic support for local hydrogen-related initiatives in Los Angeles.

This represents a significant milestone in PSR-LA's expanding involvement in hydrogen-related issues that fosters closer alignment with local communities and partners and reinforces our leadership in local and statewide organizing on this critical matter.

ADVANCING CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

PSR-LA's Climate Justice Program has been at the forefront of advancing climate solutions and has played a crucial role in defending democracy against corporate interference. Our local and state victories reflect our commitment to safeguarding communities and the environment.



THE BIG OIL RESISTANCE TOUR

In April, our partner, Last Chance Alliance, orchestrated a series of events across California to build a broad-based movement and demand Governor Newsom safeguard our communities and climate against Big Oil. The roadshow kicked off with an electrifying event in collaboration with the Stand Together Against Neighborhood Drilling (STAND-LA) coalition partners at the historic Holman United Methodist Church in South LA. Moderated by actress and activist Jane Fonda, the event drew an enthusiastic full house. The distinguished panel featured LA County Supervisor Holly Mitchell, Assemblymember Isaac Bryan, and grassroots champions who have been unwavering contributors to our coalition.

Top: Director of Health & Environment Programs Jazmine Johnson and Director of Climate & Health Programs Maro Kakoussian at the Big Oil Resistance Tour **Bottom:** Photo by Liberty Hill Foundation

NO DRILLING (OR INTERFERING IN DEMOCRACY) WHERE WE ARE LIVING

For far too long, corporations have taken advantage of voter confusion on two critical fronts: first, understanding how to vote to preserve a law instead of overturning it, and second, identifying the funding sources behind campaigns seeking to overturn existing laws through referendums. With Big Oil pouring over \$100 million into a ballot referendum to repeal a groundbreaking law requiring buffer zones for all new oil wells across the state. PSR-LA and our environmental justice partners joined forces with the service sector union SEIU and local champion South LA Assemblymember Isaac Bryan to change the rules on ballot referendums with Assembly Bill (AB) 421. The enacted law tackles newly the abovementioned issues, leveling the playing field and ensuring a fairer landscape for advocates facing off against billionaires in California referendums.







Top: STAND-LA members following an IOF hearing at the LA County Department of Regional Planning Commission **Bottom**: Councilmember Blumenfield's staff and STAND-LA members during lobby day

TAKING A STAND AGAINST NEIGHBORHOOD DRILLING

In 2022, the STAND-LA coalition achieved unprecedented milestones by securing commitments from the City and County of Los Angeles for a comprehensive oil and gas extraction phase-out. This year marked another significant triumph as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an ordinance to gradually eliminate oil drilling activities from nearly all unincorporated areas of LA County. But progress does not stop there - the County is now preparing to enact a complementary, gamechanging ordinance poised to halt operations at the Inglewood Oil Field (IOF), the largest urban oil field in the entire country.

STAND-LA hosted its first Lobby Day since 2019 to push local leadership even more. With 75+ community members and allies, STAND-LA demanded that the City Council secure a faster phase-out period for existing drill sites, establish health protections for communities still harmed by oil drilling, and enact an oil well cleanup ordinance that quarantees frontline communities are driving decision-making around the future use of sites, ensuring the highest level of remediation. These consecutive monumental achievements result from years of grassroots organizing efforts in Los Angeles, partnerships bolstered by strong with community members, allies, and political champions.

EXPOSING HEALTH AND SAFETY RISKS OF CARBON AND HYDROGEN PIPELINES

As part of our ongoing commitment to combat deceptive climate solutions promoted by the fossil fuel industry, we took proactive measures and hosted a series of dynamic webinars. These sessions shed light on the potential risks associated with carbon and hydrogen pipelines proposed for construction across California and the nation. Despite ongoing concerns about their impact on health, safety, and overall viability, these projects are forcefully advancing. Our webinars showcased experts from California, Washington state, Washington D.C., and Iowa, captivating an audience of over 250 individuals, including California state officials, medical professionals, and dedicated activists. The central message underscored the importance of rejecting the profit-driven strategies motivating oil and gas companies as we strive to safeguard our planet's future.

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY POWER TO SAFEGUARD CLEAN AIR IN SOUTH LOS ANGELES

The past year has been marked by significant progress and growth in our efforts to improve air quality and environmental justice in South Los Angeles (LA). As part of our commitment to community empowerment, our Air Quality Program achieved significant milestones, exemplified by transformative initiatives such as the Just Transition of Monica's Dry Cleaners and the expansion of the SCLA-PUSH map tool.

A JUST TRANSITION IN SOUTH LA

In 2023, PSR-LA's Air Quality Program accomplished a remarkable feat with Monica's Dry Cleaners, a local Latine-owned business in South LA. This past May, Monica's became the first in the community to make a groundbreaking switch to a zero-emissions alternative called Professional Wet Cleaning. The transition at Monica's goes beyond adopting genuine green practices; it establishes a precedent for embracing a Just Transition framework. This framework prioritizes the well-being of workers and the community, ensuring that business owners and workers receive essential support during economic and regulatory shifts. Monica's Dry Cleaners is just the beginning. By showcasing the success of adopting safer and cleaner alternatives, this transition sets a standard for other local businesses, providing a model for the future of South LA.



A view of Monica's Dry Cleaners inside the shop before the transition, with Steve Vargas and Cecilia Najera Mendoza, owners of Monica's Dry Cleaners along with allies Hans Kim, Sung Park, and Peter Sinsheimer.

EXPANDING THE REACH OF AB 617

In 2018, PSR-LA, SCOPE, Watts Clean Air, and Esperanza Community Housing joined forces to form SCLA-PUSH, which dives into the state of air quality through a community-driven approach that prioritizes the well-being of South LA residents. This year, the SCLA-PUSH map tool underwent a significant transformation, expanding its boundaries to align with the broader scope of Assembly Bill (AB) 617 and the South LA community boundary map. This critical update empowers coalition partners, advocates, decision-makers, and community members with a wealth of knowledge to engage more effectively in the AB 617 South LA CERP implementation process. Now, map users can pinpoint pollution sources, monitor air quality, and more closely assess the cumulative burden on the community. This tool is a game-changer that empowers all to take more informed and impactful action for the benefit of South LA.



UNVEILING THE HIDDEN THREAT OF BROWNFIELDS

Brownfields pose a daily threat to health and the environment in frontline communities. Our Land Use and Health team launched a transformative Brownfield Webinar Series to tackle this environmental injustice. The inaugural episode, 'Brownfields 101: Transforming Contaminated Soil into Healthy Spaces,' proved a remarkable success. With the participation of nearly 80 attendees, PSR-LA united experts, community members, stakeholders, and policy advocates to shine a spotlight on what brownfields are, their profound negative impacts on land use and community health, and how we can move toward healthcentered soil restoration.

SHAPING HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

The Land Use and Health program achieved remarkable success this year. From spotlighting hidden brownfield threats to unveiling the TIERRA Project Toolkit, the program was dedicated to reshaping brownfield regulation and remediation, uplifting community priorities, and advocating for environmental justice.

CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Our Land Use and Health Program has focused on community planning, development shaping practices, policies, and brownfield redevelopment guidelines around environmental and housing justice priorities. In line with these efforts, the team uplifted equitable development principles in the Revitalization Equitable Communities Grant program. This initiative supports nonprofits, public entities, and tribes to transform contaminated properties into valuable community assets. It facilitates the development of safe, vibrant, and health-focused community-serving spaces like affordable housing. Building on this success, our team seized the opportunity to educate legislators on the detrimental effects of streamlining CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act). We emphasized the essential uphold need to environmental justice principles and safeguards within CEQA legislation, aiming to ensure the development of equitable and healthy housing and developments in environmental justice communities.

LAUNCHING THE TIERRA PROJECT

Over the past year, PSR-LA has led the charge in advocating for brownfield regulations and remediation efforts that prioritize community, equity, and health. The Toolkit for Integrative, Equitable, Restorative, Remedial, and Advanced (TIERRA) Project represents the culmination of tireless efforts by program staff and partners. The TIERRA Project champions community priorities and concerns and highlights policy recommendations that pave the way for safer, more sustainable, and community-centered brownfield remediation and redevelopment in South LA. This toolkit is more than just a resource; it is a vehicle for capacity building, education, and the policy advocacy necessary to drive transformative change in Los Angeles.

RESHAPING POLICIES, ADVOCATING FOR TRANSPARENCY, AND EXPANDING COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

From expanding coalitions and broadening our community reach to actively participating on the global stage, our Toxics program has been defined by growth in every sense. We have extended our impact and amplified our mission for healthy communities free from environmental harm.

EJCAP'S TRANSFORMATIVE YEAR

The Environmental Justice Communities Against Plastics (EJCAP) coalition has remained focused on establishing community-driven solutions to address the plastic pollution crisis. This past year, we saw EJCAP achieve remarkable milestones. The coalition expanded its reach by adding Valley Improvement Projects, a grassroots organization advocating for social and environmental justice in Stanislaus County and the Northern San Joaquin Valley of California. Members collaborated with allies to vigilantly monitor and engage with SB 54, a pivotal CalRecycle rulemaking process designed to safeguard environmental justice communities. In addition to local efforts, EJCAP went global, with coalition members attending the Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-2) in Paris, France, and the Third Session (INC-3) in Nairobi, Kenya.

CHANGEING THE REGULATORY LANDSCAPE

The PSR-LA co-chaired coalition, Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy (CHANGE), achieved a significant milestone by creating the DTSC Reform ad hoc committee. This committee is dedicated to mobilizing for regulatory reform within DTSC. Throughout the year, committee members actively engaged with the government agency, providing comments on the Draft Environmental Justice Advisory Council Framework and Draft Hazardous Waste Management Report. These documents will shape community priorities for critical DTSC decisions.



Left: EJCAP members (PSR-LA, Just Transition Alliance, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Pacoima Beautiful) at the UN Environmental Programme compound in Nairobi Right: Maro and Anada Lee Tan from Just Transition Alliance at INC-2

CHAMPIONING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND TRANSPARENCY AT DTSC

PSR-LA with CHANGE has worked closely with the DTSC Board of Environmental Safety (BES) since 2022 to safeguard community health, hold polluters accountable, promote communitydriven decision-making, and increase agency transparency. This year, the BES introduced regulations for hazardous waste permit appeals that initially limited eligibility criteria and restricted appellants to those involved in the original permitting process. Through our dedicated advocacy efforts, alongside community and environmental justice organizations, we successfully moved the BES to broaden the eligibility requirements, granting any community member the potential to appeal a hazardous waste permit. Additionally, PSR-LA increased its engagement with DTSC staff, particularly from the Cleanups in Vulnerable Communities initiative. Thanks to two convenings with DTSC staff and regular meetings with program staff, PSR-LA has been able to provide input on various programs impacting environmental justice communities.



NAVIGATING WATERS OF PROGRESS

2023 was a transformative year for PSR-LA's Water program. Our work with Senate Bill (SB) 57, the first legislative initiative for the Water program, was a pivotal moment for learning and empowerment. The Water program also delved into the pressing issue of PFAS and the emerging concern of microplastics in drinking local water systems while nurturing the growing connections with the plastics and oil and gas programs.

SB 57 AND THE FUTURE AHEAD

In a historic milestone, PSR-LA proudly sponsored its first water-related legislative bill since the inception of the Water program. SB 57 was a bold initiative to establish a statewide program mandating local water, energy, and gas utilities to issue temporary moratoriums on utility shut-offs during extreme weather conditions. The goal was to protect public health and curb extreme weather-related illnesses and deaths. Regrettably, the bill was pulled due to growing opposition. Despite the setback with SB 57, our collaborative efforts with The Utility Reform Network, Senator Lena Gonzalez, and over 30 organizations underscore the increasing support and power we have harnessed. This sets a strong foundation for reintroducing the bill in 2024.

CHARTING A COURSE FOR CHANGE

PSR-LA has prioritized addressing PFAS and microplastic contamination in drinking water systems nationwide this year. By emphasizing the intersectionality between microplastics, our plastic reduction initiatives, and oil and gas work, we are building bridges for a unified voice. This collective effort connects fossil fuel phase-out with a Just Transition and circular economy advocacy, ultimately contributing to a healthier, cleaner water system.

PSR-LA MEMBERSHIP



PSR-LA elevates the expertise of healthcare professionals to support transformative, community-led movements for environmental justice and nuclear disarmament.

Healthcare professionals are essential to building transformative environmental health and justice movements. As some of our most trusted community leaders, they provide critical support to grassroots movements to uplift the needs of the communities we serve. Thank you, health professionals, for your commitment to a vision of justice and health throughout this year. However, our work will continue into 2024, and we'll need you to help strengthen support to protect frontline communities bearing the brunt of environmental injustices.

In the year ahead, we will continue developing strategies to expand our membership and provide ongoing training in advocacy skills, environmental health, and justice policy. This includes equipping students poised to become the next generation of dedicated health professionals.



Interested in learning more about our Membership Program? Scan the QR Code!







THANK YOU!

As we close this chapter in 2023, PSR-LA remains dedicated to creating positive change, empowered by your support. Join us as we continue to build a healthier, safer, and more just world for all.

Your support has been instrumental in our achievements this year. Join us in the journey ahead —your commitment is vital to our shared vision of a healthier and more just world.



Make a donation today. Scan the QR Code!

