



California Environmental Justice Conflicts Database

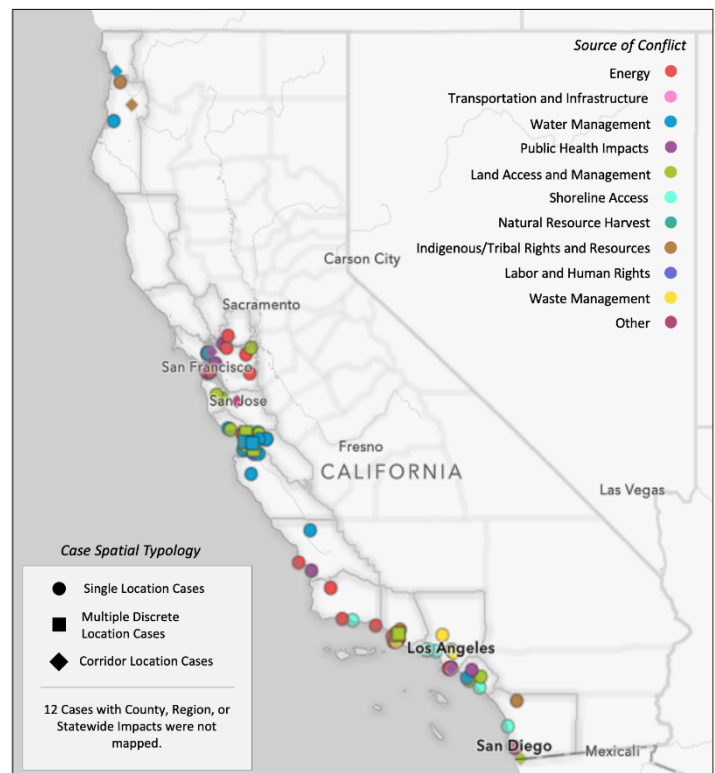
Overview: The objective of this research-to-practice project is to develop a comprehensive database resource that catalogs environmental justice (EJ) conflicts in California coastal counties. Our efforts to track EJ conflicts focuses on the social dimensions of EJ conflicts: what actors are involved, what communities are impacted, how do communities respond, how do social networks connect communities and conflicts to one another, and when do conflicts lead to EJ “wins” or “losses”. We hope that by documenting EJ conflicts systematically, we will be able to learn about patterns across conflicts that may support communities and EJ organizations to learn from one another and respond in more effective, coordinated ways.

Approach: We have compiled multiple sources of archival data, pulling cases out of the [Global EJ Atlas](#), media and local newspaper coverage, legal, technical and policy documents, found through systematic web-searching. We plan to verify the accuracy and supplement this data by working with EJ organizations and activists across the state to review the database and provide deeper insights through interviews.

Overview of database preliminary findings:

88 EJ conflicts across 19 coastal counties in California

Region	County	No. EJ conflicts
North Coast		4 (5%)
	Del Norte	1
	Humboldt	3
SF Bay Area		23 (27%)
	Alameda	6
	Contra Costa	8
	San Francisco	4
	San Mateo	4
	Solano	2
Central Coast		33 (38%)
	Monterey	9
	San Benito	4
	San Luis Obispo	3
	Santa Barbara	5
	Santa Clara	2
	Santa Cruz	6
South Coast		24 (28%)
	Los Angeles	12
	Orange	4
	San Diego	8
	Santa Ana	1
	Ventura	5
Statewide		3 (2%)



What communities are impacted by EJ conflicts?

- Urban communities (50% of conflicts)
- Rural communities (36% of conflicts)
- Suburban communities (13% of conflicts)

Multiple natural resources are at the heart of EJ conflicts:

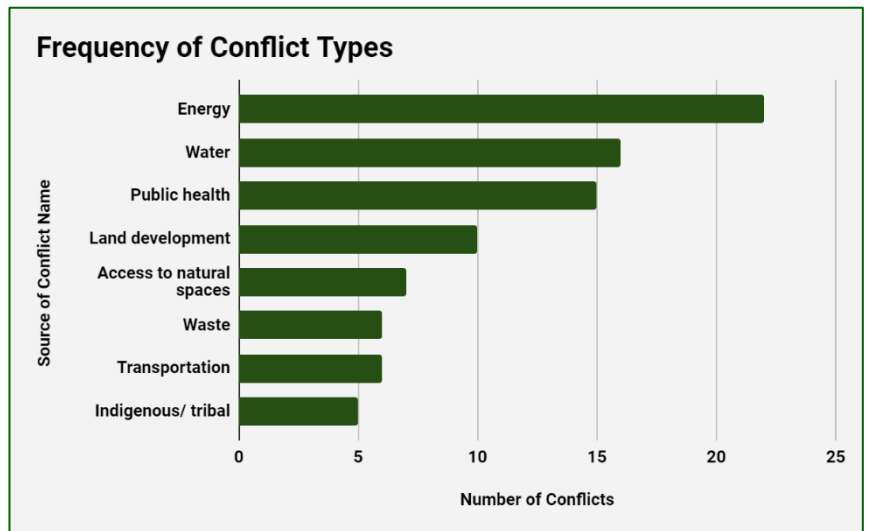
Energy/ fossil fuels (20% conflicts)



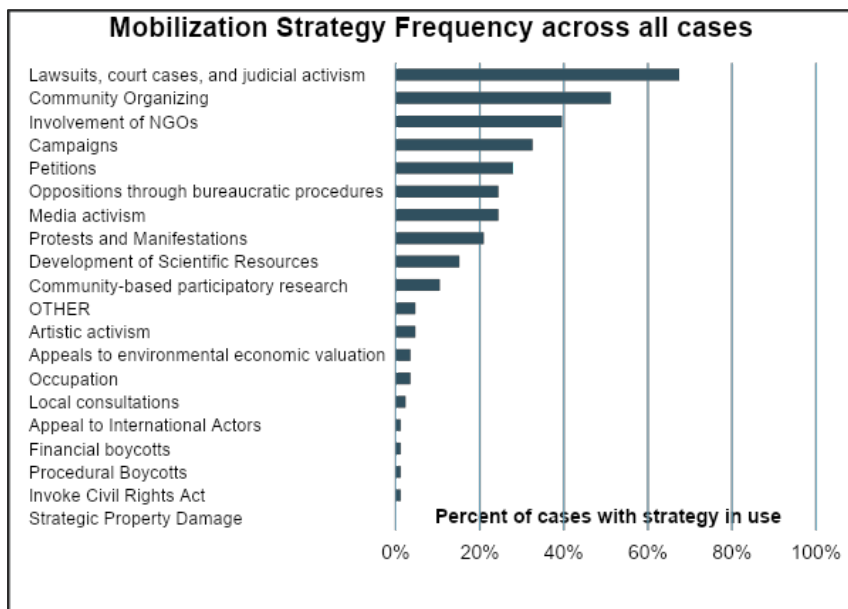
Water (19% conflicts)



Land access (12% conflicts)



Communities and EJ organizations engage through diverse strategies



On average, 4 strategies are employed in every EJ conflict

Most commonly employed strategies include:



- Legal actions
- Community organizing
- Involving NGOs
- Petitions
- Bureaucratic process (e.g. public comments)



What is that status of these conflicts?

- 48 conflicts (56%) are on-going
- 38 conflicts (44%) are closed
 - 24 conflicts (63%) saw some EJ "success"
 - 7 conflicts (18%) outcomes are unclear
 - 7 conflicts (18%) saw no EJ success

EJ successes took different forms:

- Permit amended to account for EJ impacts
- Permit denied
- Project withdrawn
- Construction/ operations halted
- Changed regulations for more protection
- Polluter pays fines/ penalties/ cost of damages or clean up
- Community repossessed land

Are you involved or impacted by one of these conflicts? Interested in learning more or getting involved with this effort? We want to hear your thoughts! Email us: jrudnick@ucsd.edu