

CAUSE



COMMUNITY REPORT

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy

2025



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DEAR CAUSE COMMUNITY,

Last year, we affirmed what we have always known to be true: lasting change is built collectively, across issues, generations, and geographies. Throughout the Central Coast, working-class immigrant communities came together. We defended our neighborhoods, and strengthened our shared power – deepening our leadership, broadening our coalitions, and building the durable organizing infrastructure we need to confront both immediate crises and long-standing injustices. Through hundreds of one-on-one conversations, base meetings, phonebanks, door-to-door canvasses, and leadership spaces, community members – grounded in their own lived experiences – stepped forward as organizers, storytellers, and advocates and met with decision-makers, spoke at public hearings, and shaped our campaigns. This organizing work lays the deep roots that blossom into the campaign victories for affordable housing, environmental justice, and immigrant worker power you will see in this report.

The year marked a dark but powerful chapter in our long-term movement-building work. More than a decade ago, you helped us cofound the 805 Immigrant Coalition – and today, as our communities are under attack, we're deeply grateful that it's expanded into one of the strongest regional immigrant justice ecosystems in California. The Coalition has raised millions of dollars to support families through fires, the pandemic – and now, ICE raids. Tens of thousands of people are connected through the rapid-response text and social media alert system. We have won city and county public funding for immigrant legal defense with our trusted partners – pivotal groups like the Immigrant Legal Defense

Center, Buen Vecino, MICOP, and the 805UndocuFund – who have flourished alongside us as we continue to contribute with our own organizing and advocacy experience.

Your steady support allowed us to launch our new Lompoc chapter. Our staff and grassroots leaders are laying the groundwork to anchor future campaigns. In just a few months we have already reached more than 150 youth through classroom presentations, listened to community priorities through hundreds of surveys, and formed a 20-member youth committee that will anchor future campaigns. These young leaders are already shaping our work in Lompoc, honing their skills, and forging the foundation for expanded adult leadership.

As you read this report, we invite you to see it not just as a record of accomplishments, but as a reflection of our collective power in motion. Despite – and because of – the unprecedented challenges before us, it is our community members who shared their stories, showed up for one another, got organized, and ultimately believed in the possibility of a more just Central Coast that made each of the milestones mentioned here possible and real. We hope you are as deeply proud and grateful – *as we are!* – to walk alongside one another in this work. And together – rooted in resilience and powered by community – we are winning lasting transformation, now and for the generations to come.

Lucas Zucker and Hazel Davalos
Co-Executive Directors, CAUSE



HOUSING JUSTICE

This year, our housing justice campaigns delivered major wins across the Central Coast, advancing strong tenant protections.

Santa Barbara

In Santa Barbara, working alongside the SB Tenants Union with support from Movement Legal, tenants secured landmark anti-renoviction protections and expanded tenant legal aid services for low-income families. Our organizing efforts also won \$5 million annually for the Local Housing Trust Fund to support affordable housing and homelessness services, while the city advanced a work plan toward a rent stabilization ordinance.



Oxnard

In Oxnard, our organizers and tenant leaders won Ventura County's first-ever tenant anti-harassment ordinance – strengthening the right to organize, protecting residents from landlord abuse and retaliation and securing \$500,000 for a city housing attorney, investigator, and other enforcement.

Ventura

In Ventura, we helped win expanded legal aid through a strengthened Housing Rights Center contract and built a broad coalition that positioned the city to adopt a long-awaited anti-harassment ordinance in early 2026.



Santa Paula

And in Santa Paula, more than 150 mobile home park residents organized to defeat an outrageous 45% rent increase, forming a powerful parkwide tenant association, saving families a collective \$500,000, and are on the verge of winning a City Council vote to amend the mobile home ordinance to close loopholes that allow repeated, escalating rent hikes.

Collectively, these victories prevented displacement, strengthened community power, and established durable legal protections that keep thousands of families safely housed.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In 2025, our environmental justice work delivered major victories that strengthened community health protections, built youth leadership, and advanced cleaner, safer futures across the Central Coast.

Santa Maria

In Santa Maria, youth and farmworker families won commitments from the school district to integrate the spray days pesticide notification tool, while our partnership with the California Air Resources Board secured two new community air monitor sites to track pollution burdens near schools and healthcare facilities.



Ventura

In Ventura, we helped shape the Ventura River Watershed Resilience Pilot Project by collecting surveys and convening residents in bilingual focus groups, producing findings that are now guiding agency planning for climate adaptation, emergency response, and environmental resilience.

Oxnard

In Oxnard, youth and young adults held corporate polluter GenOn accountable at the State Lands Commission, who required the power plant operator to pay for a \$1.5 million community benefits package for a community-led air-monitoring program, plus \$14.4 million toward dismantling harmful infrastructure at the Ormond Beach Generating Station – progress driven by years of organizing, testimony, and powerful community storytelling.



Santa Paula

And in Santa Paula, our advocacy with school board members, city officials, libraries, and youth-serving organizations solidified momentum toward establishing a community resilience center to protect residents from extreme heat, flooding, and wildfires, while coordinating expert partners to support planning and funding.



These victories expanded environmental protections, elevated community demands, and ensured that frontline neighborhoods have a stronger voice in the decisions shaping their air, land, water, and future.

IMMIGRANT WORKER POWER

Our immigrant worker power campaigns advanced critical protections for farmworkers and immigrant families across the Central Coast, winning commitments from local governments, challenging exploitation, and strengthening a regional movement led by farmworkers.

Santa Barbara County

In Santa Barbara County, we joined labor partners and immigrant rights organizations to defend public health services from county budget cuts. Through Alianza Campesina, farmworkers carried forward a powerful living-wage campaign. At the Santa Maria Valley Strawberry Festival and at the Santa Ynez Valley wine tasting rooms, workers and allies marched through the streets on Cesar Chavez Day calling out the agriculture industry's poverty wages and demanding that county officials finally take action. These efforts built unprecedented visibility as we worked with Supervisor Laura Capps to carry forward a farmworker living-wage ordinance at the County Board of Supervisors.



Photo Credit: Alianza Campesina

Ventura County

In Oxnard, in the aftermath of the horrific Glass House ICE raids, we helped win a major local commitment – \$600,000 toward legal aid in partnership with the County Public Defender.



Through our worker outreach program, our organizers deepened community access to labor protections by strengthening ties with the CA Department of Industrial Relations, providing 1,200 farmworkers with critical information on their rights as workers. Together, these victories grew the power, safety, and solidarity of immigrant and farmworker communities and moved local governments closer to delivering the protections and dignity that workers deserve.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY POWERFUL.

Support the Work.

Fuel grassroots organizing across the Central Coast with a one-time or monthly gift at causenow.org/donate. You can also help sustain this work long-term by including CAUSE in your planned giving.

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Questions? Reach out to our Donor Relations Manager, Stanley Tzankov
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