

Tri-Valley CAREs at El Concilio's Cinco de Mayo Festival in Stockton



On Sunday, May 5th, Tri-Valley CAREs immersed itself in El Concilio's Family Fiesta in downtown Stockton. Every year Stockton celebrates in a fantastic way the Mexican tradition in which we all are invited to learn more about the Mexican culture. Hundreds of people gathered in the park at Weber Point Water Front and enjoyed many engaging activities, bouncing houses for the kids, food, music, and live entertainment.

Artists, artisans, vendors and non-profit organizations such as Tri-Valley CAREs had the pleasure to be part of the Central Valley's largest Cinco de Mayo Family Fiesta. Tri-Valley CAREs' goal was to reach out to the Spanish speaking community in San Joaquin County to share information about what is happening with toxic materials at the Lawrence Livermore Lab's Site 300 near Tracy and its Main Site in Livermore.

Our board members Valeria Salamanca and Gail Rieger, our Bilingual Community Organizer Raiza Marciscano-Bettis and our other members helping to staff the booth asked festival participants if they knew about Site 300. We explained that Site 300 is an experimental testing site for high explosives, and that it supports the Lab's nuclear weapons research. Stockton residents also learned that both locations (Site 300 and the Lab's Main Site) are federal "Superfund" sites and that the Environmental Protection Agency had placed the Livermore Main Site on its list of most poisoned sites in the country in 1987 and Site 300 joined the list in 1990.

We also told participants about the plans of Livermore Lab to increase the size and power of high explosives tests at Site 300 up to ten-fold, from the current 100-pound limit to 1000 pounds of high explosive per blast. It was important for us to learn that many residents did not know about Site 300. As we conversed, the event participants became very interested and concerned that these explosions could affect the environment. They learned that nuclear weapons activities at Livermore Lab have resulted in hundreds of documented toxic and radioactive releases to our air, soil, groundwater and surface waters.



Not only adults learned about Site 300 and the Livermore Lab Main Site, but also children learned about this situation. With their parent's help, we explained how chemicals could contaminate the land and seep into the water. Further, we discussed ways to prevent pollution and assure a healthy environment. It was not all about nuclear waste, kids of all ages also enjoyed activities that Tri-Valley CAREs offered for them.

Kids had the opportunity to make buttons using a button machine that Tri-Valley CAREs provided. They had a great time drawing on the buttons and pinning them on their outfits!