

5TH ANNUAL IMPERIAL VALLEY



Airphoto - Jim Wark

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP SUMMIT (EHLS)

Evaluation Summary Report

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IMPERIAL COUNTY QUICKFACTS

TOTAL POPULATION	Imperial County	California
Population, 2012 Estimate	176,948	38,041,430

AGE	Imperial County	California
Persons under 5 years, Percent	8.1%	6.7%
Persons under 18 years, Percent	28.6%	24.3%

NATIONALITY & LANGUAGE	Imperial County	California
Foreign Born Persons, 2007-2011	32%	27.2%
Language Other than English Spoken at Home	73.8%	43.2%

RACE/ETHNICITY	Imperial County	California
White, not Hispanic or Latino	13.1%	39.4%
Hispanic or Latino	81.2%	38.2%
Two or More Races	1.7%	3.6%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.2%	0.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.6%	1.7%
Black or African American	3.7%	6.6%

EDUCATION & INCOME	Imperial County	California
High School Graduate or Higher	63.4%	80.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	12.8%	30.2%
Median Household Income	\$39,402	\$61,632
Persons Below Poverty Level	23.3%	14.4%

Source:
U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts
<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/06/06025.html>



On November 2, 2013, Comite Civico del Valle hosted the 5th Annual Imperial Valley Environmental Health Leadership Summit at Imperial Valley College. The program featured notable speakers from the California State Assembly, federal and state agencies, local governments, public interest groups, concerned residents and academia. For additional details visit <http://www.ejsummit.com/>.



PURPOSE OF THE SUMMIT



Photo courtesy of Comite Civico del Valle

The purpose of the Imperial Valley Environmental Health Leadership Summit is to bring together concerned residents and key decision makers to learn about environmental health concerns and together design collaborative solutions to improve the health and well-being of Imperial Valley residents.

BACKGROUND

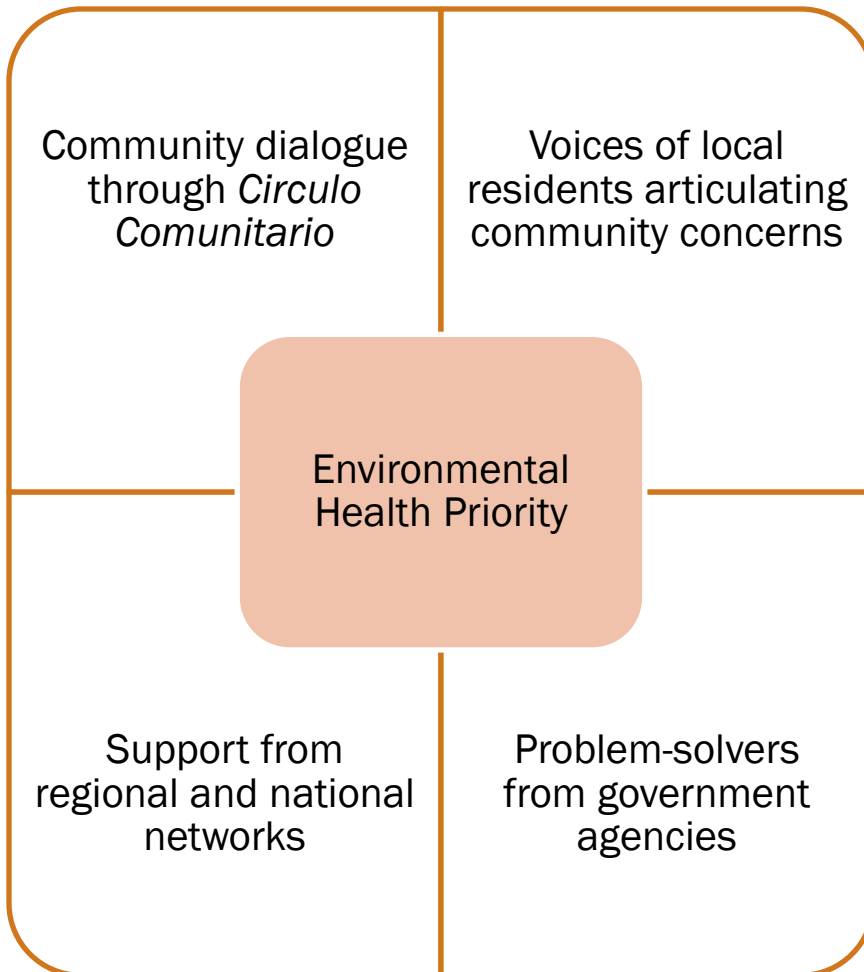


The Imperial Valley Environmental Health Leadership Summit started in 2007 in an effort to expose an array of environmental problems (i.e. poor air and water quality) negatively affecting community health in Imperial Valley.

The summit convened local residents, educators, community leaders, health care providers, government representatives and environmental justice advocates to discuss urgent environmental health concerns, evaluate new data and research, identify advocacy priorities and discuss evidence-based solutions to address important local environmental health concerns.

Photos courtesy of Carlos Zamora

DESIGN



The summit was designed to serve as a bilingual venue (English/Spanish) for concerned individuals to come together to learn and strategize together on ways to address major problems.

The summit structure includes four key elements: local resident voices, regional and national supporters, government representatives, and community dialogue through *Circulo Comunitario*.

EVALUATION SUMMARY

An evaluation survey was administered to 189 summit participants to better understand participant demographics, reason(s) for attending the summit, experiences participating in presentations and workshops and usefulness of information presented.

Out of 189 individuals who attended the 5th Annual Imperial Valley Environmental Health Leadership Summit, seventy-five (n=75) summit participants completed the evaluation survey. The following pages summarize the survey results.

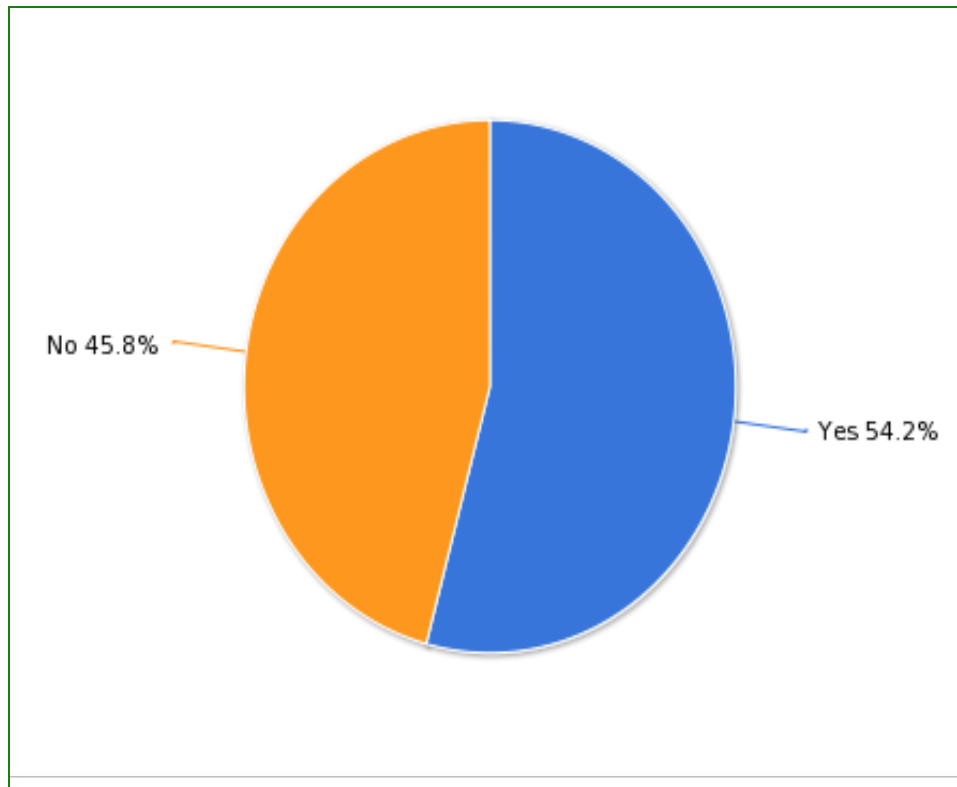


Photos courtesy of Comite Civico del Valle

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS: COUNTY/CITY OF RESIDENCE

SURVEY QUESTION:

Do you live in Imperial County?



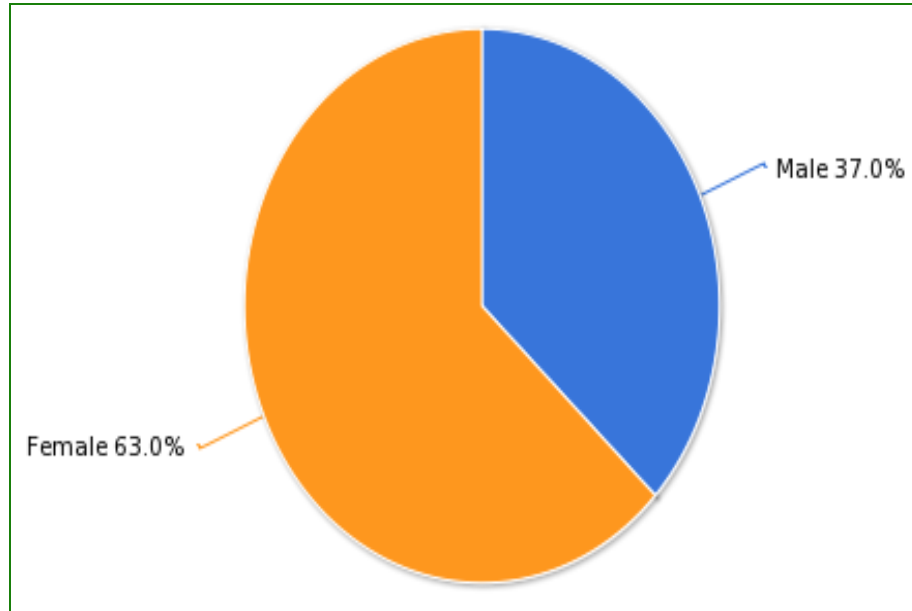
54.2% of survey respondents live in Imperial County (N=39).

They report living in El Centro, Brawley, Calexico, Calipatria, Heber, Holtville, Imperial and Westmorland.

45.8% of survey respondents live in the following counties (outside of Imperial County): San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, Orange, Sacramento, Sonoma, Placer, and Mexicali (N=33).

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS: GENDER

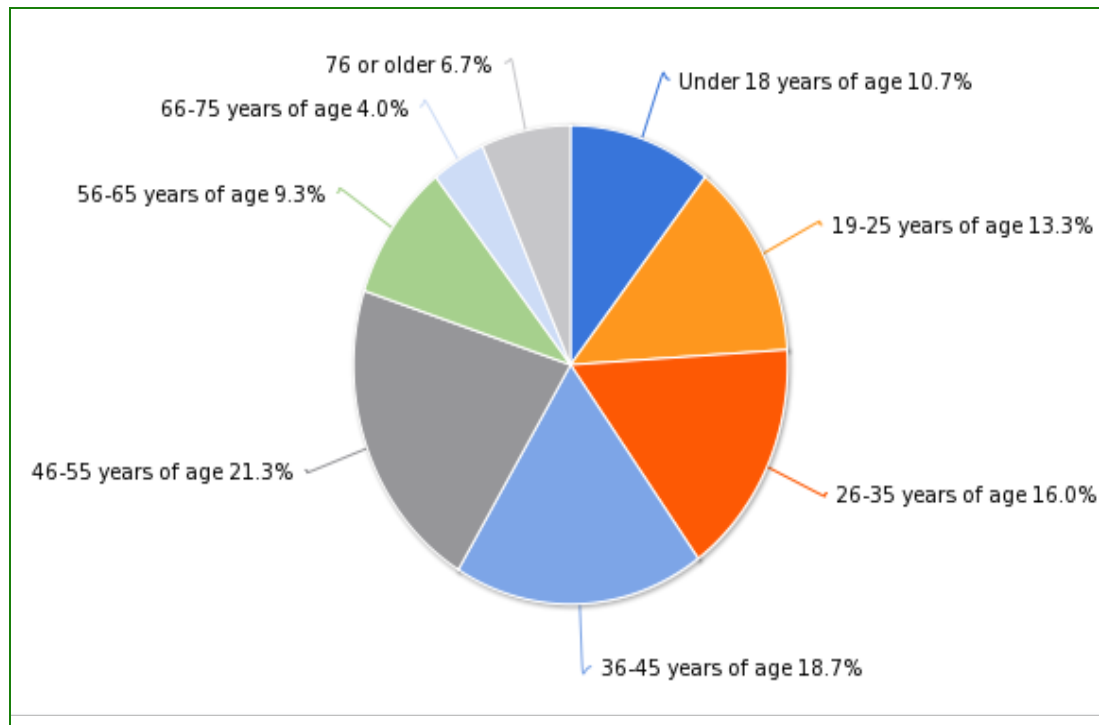
*SURVEY QUESTION:
What is your gender?*



63% of survey respondents are female (N=46) and 37% are male (N=27).

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS: AGE

*SURVEY QUESTION:
What is your age?*



The age of summit participants ranged from under 18 years of age to 76 or older.

The average age is 40 years of age.

REASON(S) FOR ATTENDING THE SUMMIT

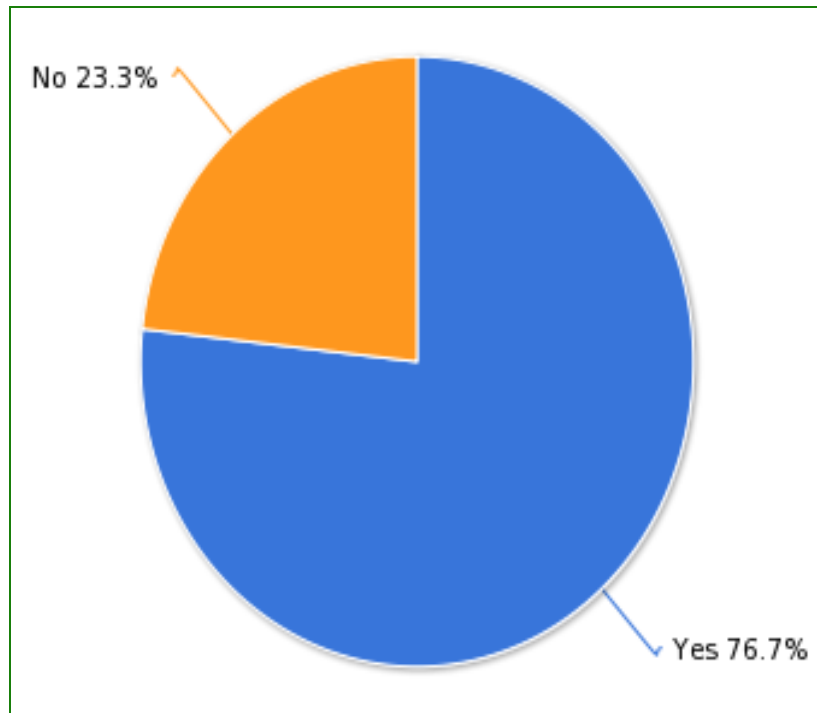
Below is a list of reasons participants cited for attending the summit:

- I am very interested in health
- Because it is very important to our health
- Personal and professional reasons
- Got invited and was interested
- I care about my community
- Interested in environmental health and have done work with CCV
- Interested in solving EJ issues
- To get more information about EJ and environmental health
- Because I want to know more about the environment
- I am very interested in these topics
- Personal interest
- Health related issue
- To learn about different topics related to environmental health
- To learn and be informed
- Local student - observing as person of interest
- To build relations and learn about the Salton Sea
- Concerned about environmental injustice
- I was a speaker
- Very interested in Salton Sea
- To learn about EJ issues
- Gain personal knowledge for community involvement
- To learn about environmental justice issues in Imperial County
- Sponsor, exhibitor, environmental manager
- Gather information and network
- Representing IID
- Invited speaker
- I care about IV
- To learn about environmental justice
- I'm studying renewable energy
- To learn how I can make a difference in my community

PRIOR EXPERIENCE WITH SUMMIT

SURVEY QUESTION:

Is this your first time attending the summit?



76.7% of survey respondents attended the summit for the first time (N=56).

23.3% reported attending the summit previously (N=17).

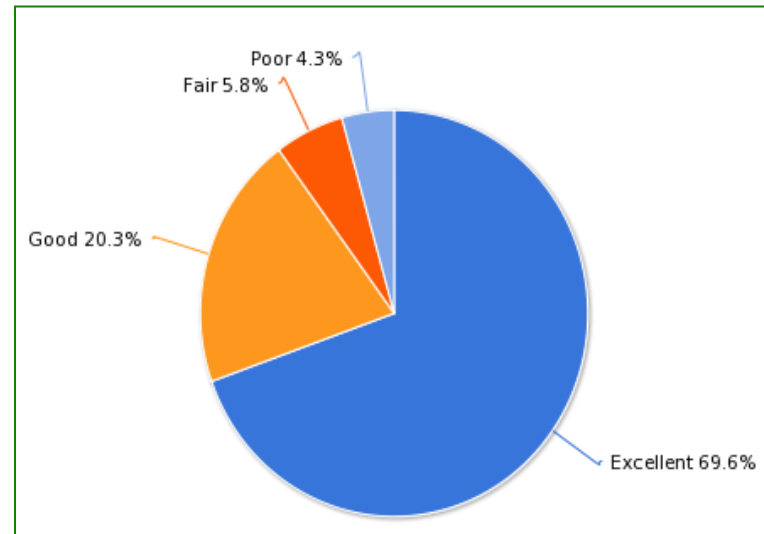
OPENING SESSION

Morning Keynote - From the River to the Sea: Social, Legal, and Financial Responsibility by John McCaull, Esq.

The majority (90%) of survey respondents rated the summit opening session as good or excellent (N=62).

69.6% of survey respondents rated the opening session as Excellent (N=48).

20.3% of survey respondents rated the opening session as Good (N=14).



OPENING SESSION COMMENTS

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the Morning Keynote - From the River to the Sea: Social, Legal, and Financial Responsibility by John McCaull, Esq.

- Presentation was more focused on the environment but should have included more about community health perspective to give the summit more context
- Missed touching on how the environment affects the health of people living in the community
- Wish it was in Spanish
- Did not include enough information on health impacts
- Excellent speaker
- Great speaker and covered good themes that were discussed during the rest of the conference
- Clear, concise and informative
- Very interesting



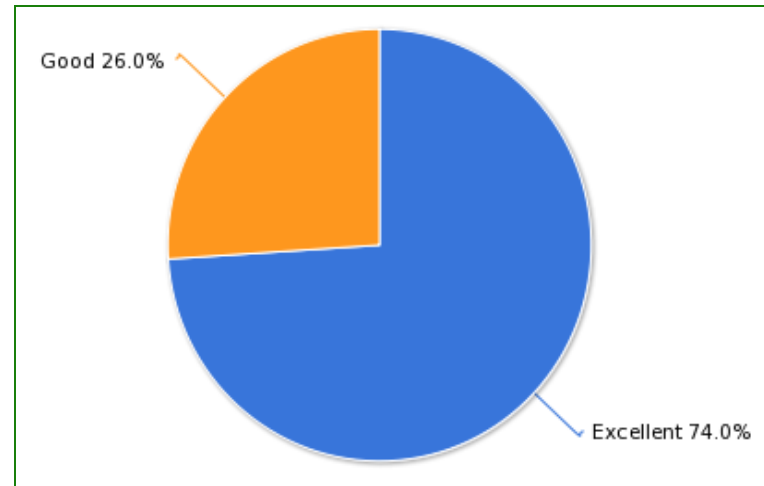
Photo courtesy of National Latino Research Center

WORKSHOPS

100% of survey respondents rated the workshops as good or excellent (N=73).

74% of survey respondents rated the workshops as Excellent (N=54).

26% of survey respondents rated the workshops as Good (N=19).



WORKSHOP COMMENTS

Part 1

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the workshops:

- **Helpful & informative to be aware of the things happening around my county and community**
- **Comprehensive, detailed and persuasive**
- **Good topics and programs that I can invite community members to participate in**
- **Excellent workshops by Bruce and Tom**
- **The workshops helped me learn about community problems**
- **The Toxicology workshop was outstanding - the best workshop!**
- **If I had to name a favorite panel it would be Arcela Nunez, Mr. Garcia, and Ivan Soto on community involvement**
- **Morning workshops were great**
- **I especially enjoyed hearing Daniel Garcia's presentation and Ivan Soto's, two young men from our valley. We can be very proud!**
- **4 simultaneous sessions should be avoided. All morning presentations were important and speakers expressed feeling rushed to get through their presentations**

WORKSHOP COMMENTS

Part 2

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the workshops:

- I would have liked to hear more about health impacts associated with the environment and toxins in the air
- Enjoyed the range of topics; wished we had more time for discussion
- Very practical - very good information to be used at the grassroots level
- Enjoyed the workshops I attended
- Toxicology 101 was very informative and digestible!
- Workshops touched on issues that clearly were not touched on during the opening session
- The workshop with Daniel, Ivan and Arcela was excellent!
- Very interesting! We need to educate the population to take an active role in the community
- Interesting, I learned how I can participate actively and generate change in my city

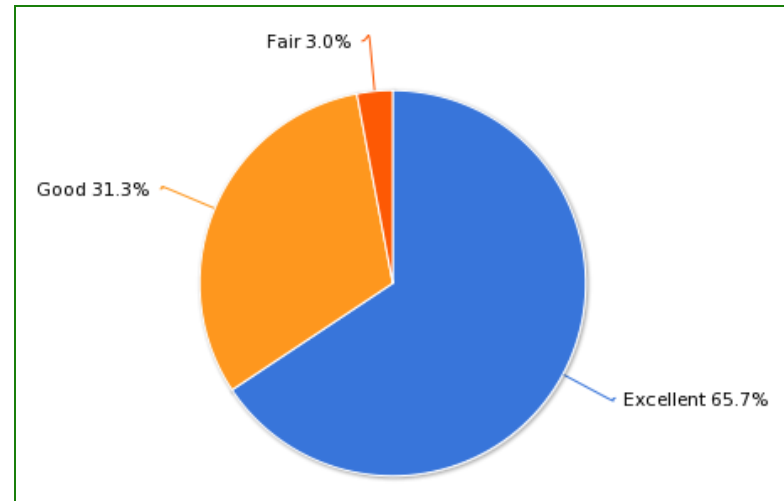
CONCLUSION

Honored Guest Speaker Felicia Marcus. Board Chair, State Water Resource Board

97% of survey respondents rated the conclusion as good or excellent (N=69).

65.7% of survey respondents rated the conclusion as Excellent (N=44).

31.3% of survey respondents rated the conclusion as Good (N=21).



CONCLUSION COMMENTS

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the closing presentation:

- Valued lesson to find your allies to be effective. Don't shortage the objective but be strategic in approach
- Respect and connection. Funny and engaging
- I liked how she used examples to relate to people
- Felicia was terrific!
- Good advice on how to be effective negotiators
- Excellent speaker
- Excellent - very motivational speaker!



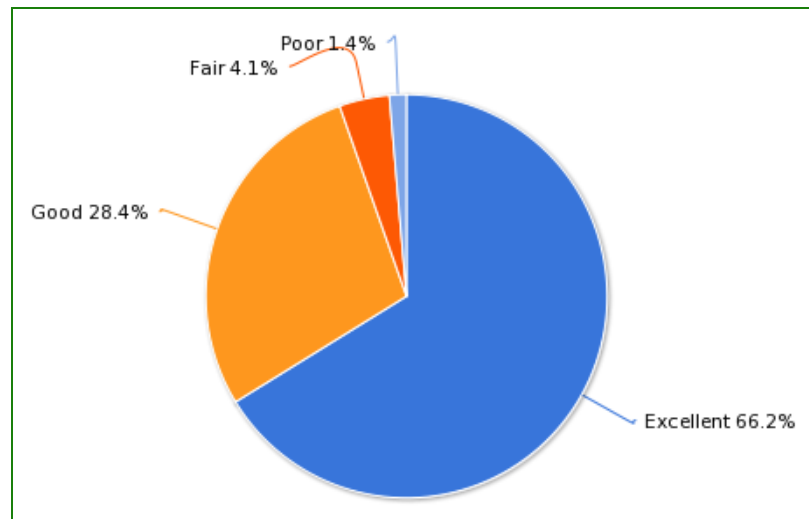
Photos courtesy of Comite Civico del Valle

SUMMIT OVERALL

95% of survey respondents rated the summit overall as good or excellent (N=70).

66.2% of survey respondents rated the summit overall as Excellent (N=49).

28.4% of survey respondents rated the summit overall as Good (N=21).



OVERALL COMMENTS

Part 1

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the conference overall:

- One of the best, if not the best, organized conferences I have attended, Congratulations to the steering committee.
- Great conference!
- Great informative conference
- Well organized- good website and program
- More publicity is needed to let the community know about the conference
- Offer more workshops discussing harmful effects associated with the environment, water quality and air quality
- Include more testimonials from residents to share with politicians so politicians can hear from the community
- Excellent speakers overall
- Would appreciate longer sessions because expert presenters are too constrained by time
- Pleased to experience the depth of the presenters
- Great translation services
- Great lunch
- As usual, the conference was extremely well-planned and organized; excellent venue; nice breakfast and lunch; nicely printed agenda with important bios and contact information

OVERALL COMMENTS

Part 2

Below is a list of comments participants provided regarding the conference overall:

- Conference needs to include more community leaders. The community did not have a strong voice present
- Some of the presentations were too technical
- Thank you so much for a great conference!
- Great information and power points to use for education in front of other groups
- I enjoyed the conference very much
- In my opinion it's a great experience to attend this conference and I'm very grateful and looking forward to helping our community
- Program needs to be proof read one more time
- Very boring, too slow
- It felt rushed

HOW IS THE INFORMATION GOING TO HELP YOU?

Part 1

Below is a list of comments participants provided on how the information presented during the summit is going to help them:

- Share information with the community about dangers from the New River that cause illnesses
- Educate others on what they can do to get involved
- Learned about the environment and how it benefits or harms health
- Learned about water contamination
- Great access to additional resources, solutions, local, and state information sources who are working in I.V., opportunities for collaboration
- Good resources
- Activate and mobilize our community
- Develop programs that can help mobilize and educate the community on this vital issue
- Received a lot of contacts and an appreciation of ongoing Environmental Health concerns
- Made me more aware of beneficial projects going on. I can use information in teaching and in my own projects
- It will keep me updated and is good to know that there are people doing something to resolve these problems - thank you!
- I have knowledge and information on what is happening in my community
- Good quality speakers and important topics
- This is my home (Imperial County). I expect to retire, have family, friends, etc. Health issues affect those of us who live here

HOW IS THE INFORMATION GOING TO HELP YOU?

Part 2

Below is a list of comments participants provided on how the information presented during the summit is going to help them:

- The information presented will help me be more aware of the environmental health risks and be more health wise of my surroundings
- I am a promotora and this information sometimes gets neglected. I will take this important information to the community
- I will apply what I learned in the Toxicology 101 workshop
- Be more aware of health hazards
- It is going to help me to get more involved to change our environment together
- I learned a lot of things I did not know before that are very important to our health
- Please continue doing these conferences and inform the community about them
- Very helpful!
- Identify ways to collaborate with the local community on local issues
- Helps me understand issues and players in Imperial County and around the Salton Sea
- Greater understanding of environmental issues in Imperial County region, specifically the Salton Sea, New River, and air quality
- I received very important information to help me improve our environment
- I feel that I was given the right tools to further my knowledge. The speakers of the Toxicity workshop seem to be very passionate!!

HOW IS THE INFORMATION GOING TO HELP YOU?

Part 3

Below is a list of comments participants provided on how the information presented during the summit is going to help them:

- It's going to help the audience to be more aware of the environmental problems we have in the community
- For awareness and to know more about environmental issues
- The content of the presentations was informative and helped me to learn about environmental issues and the Salton Sea
- It helps me to be aware of the overall health related to environmental issues which affect the community, as well as the individuals residing locally
- To be more aware of what is going on in the community
- To learn how to help the community
- I plan on becoming an activist in our county to promote clean air, water and environment
- I'm going to use this information at work because I'm an environmental science educator
- As a teen, I am today's future. I must be informed about what is happening right now and how I can help
- I obtained information that is going to help me become more involved in the community
- To have a broader vision about environmental problems internationally
- Become more active in our community to help improve conditions that affect our environment

RECOMMENDATIONS

Below is a list of recommendations participants provided on how to improve the summit in the future:

- Hold more conferences in the future
- Include more speakers representing local grassroots leadership
- Include more information about health impacts
- Spend less time on introductions and more time on actual presentations
- Allocate more time for workshop sessions
- Provide more recycling bins for lunch boxes and encourage participants to recycle plastic from their lunches and drinks
- Conduct more outreach to inform the community about the event
- Include a panel on the impacts on people and the desert of remote, large-scale and wind projects
- Schedule no more than two workshops at the same time
- Include more young people
- Find more solutions to the problems in Imperial County
- Test microphones and lighting. It was hard to hear and too much lighting made it hard to see from the back

CALL FROM BRAWLEY RESIDENT

Por favor sigan haciendo más ~~seg~~
seguida estas Conferencia y den mucha
mas informacion y comuniquense con todas
~~las~~ las comunidades, porque mucho gente
no saben que existen estas conferencias que
son tan importantes para todos.

URGENTE
(Por favor hagamos
algo pronto.)

* NOS ESTAMOS *

ENVENENANDO

no nos damos
cuenta. *

Please continue having these conferences and providing a lot of information to reach everyone in the community because a lot of people don't know about these important conferences. It is urgent. Please let's do something soon. We are being poisoned and we don't even know it.

**Brawley Resident,
54 year-old**

DISCUSSION

Participant feedback suggests the summit is a very valuable community forum where concerned individuals can come together to learn, share and advocate. The majority of participants see the summit as an event where they can come to learn and access resources that will help them build their capacity to ignite change in their own communities. They are also looking for opportunities to meet other concerned individuals and to identify promising strategies that can be replicated in their immediate community.

Participants see immediate practical application for newly gained knowledge and information gathered at the summit. Whether participants are students, teachers, promotores, or civil servants, everyone found the information valuable and useful. The majority plan to use the information to educate others and plan to become more involved in their immediate community to make positive changes.

It is clear that the majority of participants are very committed individuals who care deeply about their community and are looking for ways to become more engaged to improve environmental health conditions in Imperial County.

SUMMIT SPONSORS

Summit organizers thank the generous sponsors who made the event possible.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

For additional information regarding this report, please contact

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