

For Immediate Release:

For more information:

Anna Martinez, Greenaction (559) 583-0800, mobile (661) 912-4798; Erica Swinney, Greenaction: mobile (415) 722-5360 & Bradley Angel, Greenaction: mobile (415) 722-5270

**Kettleman City, Hanford and Avenal Community Groups & Greenaction
Unite to Launch Kings County Environmental Health and Justice Campaign
to End Pro-Polluter “Business as Usual” Policies of County Officials**

Greenaction Opens First-Ever Environmental Justice Office in Kings County

Hanford, CA -- Residents from the Kings County communities of Hanford, Kettleman City and Avenal joined with Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice and allies in kicking off an unprecedented county-wide environmental justice campaign on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at 12 noon. The campaign began with a press conference in front of the new office just opened by Greenaction at 130 East 8th Street, Hanford.

Following the press conference the community residents and Greenaction held a colorful protest in front of the Kings County Offices in Hanford demanding that ‘business as usual’ for polluters has to stop. “We are tired of being ignored by the government agencies that should be protecting our health but are failing to do so. We have come together to fight back and make sure all companies that bring toxic waste to our communities understand that we are going to do whatever it takes to see that it stops now” said Carmen Moreno of the Struggle for Health and Environmental Justice/Lucha para Salud y Justicia Ambiental in Avenal. After the protest, Greenaction and community residents met with Bill Zumwalt of the Kings County Planning Department to present concerns and start to discuss concrete solutions.

The united campaign by Hanford, Kettleman City and Avenal residents and Greenaction is a historic development in the county and San Joaquin Valley. Tired of being dumped on by polluting industries and toxic and solid waste imported into the county – and tired of inadequate environmental reviews and lack of public notice and public participation opportunities – residents and Greenaction have united to change “business as usual” in the county.

People for Clean Air and Water in Kettleman City have attracted international attention for their long fight against Chemical Waste Management’s toxic waste and garbage dump in their town – and are also fighting proposed importing of sewage sludge. Hanford residents have fought several polluting industries over the years, including defeating the proposed Plastic Energy incinerator project in 2003 and currently are concerned about a tire and plastics “recycling” project being built by Modular Rubber Drains without full environmental review. Avenal residents have formed Lucha para Salud y Justicia Ambiental and are protesting importation of waste from Los Angeles to the local garbage landfill and the noxious odors that emanate from it. “This is an exciting time for Kings County, pollution is threatening everybody’s health, and communities are finally coming together to do something about it” said Anna Martinez, Greenaction community organizer.

###