

Environmental Injustice: Wildfire Impacts on Undocumented Central Coast Farmworkers

Bren Environmental Leadership Program Summer Fellowship



Project Description:

This project addresses the compounded challenges faced by undocumented farmworker communities in our region, and will particularly focus on the disproportionate health and environmental risks these residents experience due to climate-induced wildfires. Because publicly available data often lacks information about undocumented workers, particularly concerning their health and economic vulnerabilities, the Graduate Student Mentor (Mentor) will develop interview and survey questions that [805 UndocuFund](#) will use to understand disparities in health impacts, economic losses, and access to resources and disaster relief during and after wildfire events. In addition, the Mentor and undergraduate student will research and identify examples of successful regulatory, NGO, and community-led efforts in other regions to make recommendations to 805 UndocuFund for future action in this region. Findings will be developed into a final client report detailing effective resilience and disaster response strategies for undocumented residents facing climate-related risks, including recommendations for future data collection and analysis to advance hands-on disaster relief and policy advocacy in our region.

Qualifications:

- Strong interest in environmental justice, particularly in the context of climate change and its impact on undocumented communities.
- Strong interest in mentoring the undergraduate student working with you on the project.
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively, including with diverse communities.
- Excellent organizational skills and verbal and written communication skills.
- Strong project management skills and ability to work with multiple priorities and deadlines and ensure milestones are met on time.
- Past experience with research, or strong interest in doing research (examples include: conducting literature reviews, analyzing case studies, data analysis).
- Strong writing skills will be helpful, but extensive past experience is not required.
- Spanish language proficiency is preferred.

Details:

The stipend for engaging for 35 hours/week for 10-weeks (June 23 - August 29, 2025) is \$8,500. You must participate in mentoring and leadership training that will occur during the Spring Quarter prior to working with your undergraduate student in the summer. This BEL project was developed by the UCSB Center for Equitable Environmental Sciences ([CEES](#)) in collaboration with 805 UndocuFund.

How to Apply:

Please submit applications [here](#) by February 4, 2025. Applications should include:

- A brief statement (2-3 paragraphs) describing your interest in this project and how your experience and qualifications make you a good fit. We welcome insights into how your experiences or perspectives might shape your contribution to the BEL community.
- A resume or CV, including any relevant coursework and previous experience.