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Contact:

Gregory Hile, EnviroJustice, (925) 360-2902, ghile@envirojustice.org

EnviroJustice Joins *Open the Government* Coalition

MARTINEZ, CA – EnviroJustice today joined Open the Government, an unprecedented coalition of individuals and organizations, bringing together First Amendment advocates, good government groups, journalists, environmentalists, and organizations representing working men and women. The coalition works to stop the growth in government secrecy and advocates for greater public access to government information. The coalition is housed at OMB Watch in Washington, D.C. and the web site is www.openthegovernment.org.

“As advocates for environmental justice,” Gregory Hile, president of EnviroJustice, declared, “we have a profound need for openness and accountability in government to insure that the right of all people to clean air, clean water and a safe place to live, work and play is protected. Working with our coalition partners, EnviroJustice will dedicate itself to achieving and preserving the values inherent in a true democracy, with a government that acts in the name of and for the benefit of its people.”

The Open the Government coalition includes more than fifty organizations, including the American Library Association, Common Cause, Environmental Defense, the League of Women Voters, People for the American Way, and the U.S. Public Interest Research Group.

OpenTheGovernment Statement of Values

To protect the safety and well-being of our families, homes, and communities; to hold our government accountable; and to defend the freedoms upon which our democracy depends; we, the undersigned individuals and organizations, believe the public has a right to information held by our government.

The American way of life demands that government operate in the open to be responsive to the public, to foster trust and confidence in government, and to encourage public participation in civic and government institutions.

The public's right to know promotes equal and equitable access to government, encourages integrity in official conduct, and prevents undisclosed and undue influence from special interests.

OpenTheGovernment.org seeks to advance the public's right to know and to reduce secrecy in government.

OpenTheGovernment.org
1742 Connecticut Ave NW
3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20009
(202) 332-OPEN (6736)
info@openthegovernment.org

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