

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mia Bolton, 301-395-4145

Environmental Health & Justice Campaign Endorses National City Candidates

- *Organization supports three community-minded candidates in pursuit of environmental justice*
- *Statewide screening tool identifies National City in top 10 percent of most at-risk communities*

April 12, 2018, National City, CA. — Today, [Environmental Health & Justice Campaign \(EHJC\)](#), an organization that empowers communities to achieve environmental justice, endorses Alejandra Sotelo-Solis for Mayor of National City and Mona Rios and Jose Rodriguez for National City Councilmembers.

According to EHJC, each candidate has shown a commitment to advancing environmental justice to National City -- a community that [California's quality-of-life screening tool](#) identifies in the top 10 percent of neighborhoods statewide most impacted by the environmental effects of pollution.

"Many National City communities struggle with a heavy burden of pollution, air quality issues and lack of opportunity that must be addressed to improve public health," says Bea Barraza, president of EHJC. "This election represents an opportunity for pivotal change that our community will feel for the next 50 years. It's imperative that we choose leaders who listen and take action to improve our region for everyone."

As a lifelong National City resident who was elected to the National City Council in 2008 and currently serves her third term, Sotelo-Solis has been a vocal advocate for California to adopt a bill that requires every city general plan to have an environmental justice element. According to EHJC, her leadership was instrumental in the passage and implementation of the Westside Specific Plan to correct decades of incompatible land use, restore the residential and commercial character and reduce pollution in National City.

Mona Rios is a fourth-generation National City resident who was elected to the National City Council in 2010. In 2017, Rios became a vocal advocate for AB 805 to lay the groundwork for the growth of equitable transportation systems in transit-dependent communities, including National City. In early 2018, she was elected as vice chair of the Metropolitan Transit System. EHJC applauds Rios for dedicating herself to making National City a place that families and businesses are proud to call home.

With a long background in advocating and organizing for social and economic justice in National City, Jose Rodriguez has earned the support of EHJC. The organization recognizes his commitment to reducing incompatible land use to protect health of residents and workers, increasing neighborhood green space, promoting sustainable construction practices and advancing affordable transportation -- citing his opposition to the 2016 ballot Measure A that would have led to the expansion of the I-5 and I-805 freeways. Rodriguez attributes his commitment to bringing justice to working families to the hard work of his parents who immigrated from Mexico.

"This community deserves leaders who understand the environmental, health and economic issues National City has faced for generations and how we can work together to achieve a greater quality of life for all," says Barraza.

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Environmental Health & Justice Campaign (EHJC): As a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, EHJC advocates for public and private initiatives that protect public health and the environment by means of community education and community organizing, to monitor government and industry actions that cause

pollution, and to engage in other activities that promote social and environmental justice. For more information please visit www.ehjcaction.org.