**Text II**

**Environmental Racism**

The mystique of seeing the steam belching cooling towers and the soaring flare spires is akin to the fascination of watching an old science fiction film, or perhaps even a horror movie. The oldest refinery in the port is in public view on the Harbor 110 Freeway. For the small neighborhood below Anaheim nestled between the Freeway and what is now the Phillips 66 Wilmington plant, the constant roar of the machines is a reminder of the high sulphur “product” churning through the facility, threatening to escape in controlled and uncontrolled flares. In 1999 an explosion sent a cloud of black smoke through the residential area so thick the adjacent freeway had to be closed.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District regulates refineries. Public reporting on emissions is required. Yet it’s hard not to think about asthma and cancer rates when looking at the juxtaposition of the homes and the metal jungles behind them. With the Clean Air, the Clean Power Act and the EPA in the crosshairs, people will need to fight even more for healthy air and water.

Phillips 66 is connected with its non-identical twin in Carson and together they release tens of thousands of pounds of noxious particulate matter, nitrous oxides, reactive organic gases, carbon monoxide and sulfur dioxide into the air every year. The Wilmington/Carson harbor area has the highest concentration of refineries in the state.

That communities of color make up the majority of those who live near the harbor area refineries is a manifestation of environmental racism. Yet whites and middle and upper class people nearby are caught up in the pollution too.

Nationwide, the pressure to profit from fossil fuels is intensifying. In 2015 the US Congress voted to lift the ban on exporting crude. The global market for crude overshadows the diminishing domestic demand. Tesoro wants to capitalize on this by connecting its Carson and Wilmington plants through pipelines, most likely to profit from the the Keystone XL and North Dakota Bakken crudes. Environmental groups are sounding the alarm against this high impact integration.