

Pixley, Tulare



THE COMMUNITY AND THE FACTORY FARM GAS CLUSTER

PIXLEY, TULARE

The unincorporated community in Pixley in Tulare County is over a hundred years old and was once an important rail stop. One fun fact: episodes of Petticoat Junction were filmed in the community. Pixley has an elementary and middle school, a veteran's memorial district, a water system, and active community groups. Its main industries are agriculture and the recent and expanding dairy and factory farm gas industries.

Pixley has between 4 and 5 thousand residents, about 89% of whom are Latino/a/e.. It is an economically disadvantaged community and according to CalEnviroScreen exhibits several indicators of vulnerability: a poverty rate at the 97th percentile, 96th percentile for pollution burden, 100th percentile for drinking water contamination, 94th percentile for particulate matter and over 80th percentile for both ozone exposure and pesticides. Residents have raised the need for infrastructure investments in their community, such as investments for housing, recreational areas, drinking water system, road improvements, lighting, sidewalks, and a drainage system.

PIXLEY DAIRIES AND PIXLEY DIGESTER CLUSTER

Pixley has 26 dairies, housing approximately 140,000 cows. At least nine of these dairies have digesters and most are connected to a massive factory farm gas cluster. Residents complain of breathing complications, nose bleeds, and headaches, and constant smell of manure due to the surrounding industry. The state, through CDFA, CPUC and CEC programs has subsidized the dairy digesters and **factory farm gas infrastructure in Pixley with more than \$20 million in cash subsidies in addition to revenues generated through the Low Carbon Fuel Standard.**

Calgren Dairy Fuels LLC and its affiliates Pixley Biogas LLC is just a mile from the community. Calgren began as an ethanol processing plant and is now on track to become one of the largest factory farm gas clusters in the state. With 22 miles of underground pipeline, Calgren is connected to 15 dairy digesters, with approximately 12 more digesters in the process of connecting or under construction.

Seven dairies in Pixley participate in the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program. Six of those seven have expanded since 2011, four expanded by more than 10%.

The Pixley Biogas Cluster is one of four factory farm gas clusters in Tulare County. The other three along with their associated dairies have also received huge subsidies from the state. As but one example, the CPUC has poured over \$200 million in rate-payer funds into the development and operations of factory farm gas clusters. To date, fifty-one Tulare dairies have received grants from the CDFR digester program.

