

2021

## El Centro de California

Kacie "Kase" Figueroa  
*Humboldt State University*

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/courageouscuentos>



Part of the [Bilingual, Multilingual, and Multicultural Education Commons](#), [Chicana/o Studies Commons](#), [Civic and Community Engagement Commons](#), [Community-Based Learning Commons](#), [Creative Writing Commons](#), [Curriculum and Instruction Commons](#), [Domestic and Intimate Partner Violence Commons](#), [Educational Sociology Commons](#), [Ethnic Studies Commons](#), [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [Gender and Sexuality Commons](#), [History Commons](#), [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#), [Latin American Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Latina/o Studies Commons](#), [Modern Literature Commons](#), [Politics and Social Change Commons](#), [Race and Ethnicity Commons](#), [Reading and Language Commons](#), and the [Theory, Knowledge and Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Figueroa, Kacie "Kase" (2021) "El Centro de California," *CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives*: Vol. 4 , Article 36.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/courageouscuentos/vol4/iss1/36>



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial 4.0 License](#)  
© 2016 Department of Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies (CRGS) at Humboldt State University.  
This Counternarratives and Reflections is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in CouRaGeouS Cuentos: A Journal of Counternarratives by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. For more information, please contact [kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu](mailto:kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu).

## El Centro de California

By Kacie "Kase" Figueroa

Riverbank is located in the Central Valley of California. A location where instead of having palm trees swaying, we have our almond and peach orchards swaying and blowing their pollen up in the air. Instead of having the smell of sea salt in the air, we have the smell of cow manure.

Nevertheless, the smell goes away and all you can feel is the soft Delta breeze that comes down from Stockton. Riverbank is known as "the city of action" but the only action we get are the never-ending trains. Coming back home seeing the house covered in smoke and hearing a smoker's cough everywhere because of *los chiles cocinando en la estufa*. Waking up early on a Saturday morning only to hear Antonio Solis blasting on the radio and the smell of Fabuloso all over the house.

Hearing the phrase *tienes el nopal en la frente* when I forget a certain word in Spanish. Having conversations with *mis hynas y vatos* in "spanglish" when we forget some words in English or Spanish. *El Valle Central es mi tierra* and I know it will always be there when I need it the most. There's a piece of the valley within me that will never go away no matter how far I go.