



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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New Report Shows California State Regulatory Agencies Fall Short on Environmental Justice

**First Ever Agency Assessment and Annual Environmental Justice Scorecard
Together Provide More Accurate Measures of Success**

Sacramento, CA | January 31, 2017 — Today the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) released their first ever [Environmental Justice Agency Assessment](#) which lays out principles for inclusion of environmental justice in policy and program implementation for state regulatory agencies. As a companion to CEJA's annual [Environmental Justice Legislative Scorecard](#) also released today, it includes an analysis of the Department of Toxic Substances Control and California Public Utilities Commission, two agencies that play a powerful role in protecting the health and safety of our most vulnerable communities.

CEJA's 4th Annual Environmental Justice Scorecard looks at the voting record of legislators on 14 bills that impact low-income communities and communities overburdened by pollution and poverty. This year, 38 legislators received perfect scores, 16 Senators and 22 Assembly Members. 20 Senators scored above 90%, almost all the Democrats, and 38 Assemblymembers scored above 90%. The Asian Pacific Islander Caucus continued their strong track record with an average score of 95, while the Latino Caucus also continued to improve their leadership on environmental justice. The Black Caucus score decreased slightly.

"It is vitally important that we have tools in place to keep our state agencies accountable and ensure that they meet their obligations to protect all Californians. CEJA's Environmental Justice Agency Assessment identified vast deficiencies in how agencies, such as DTSC, are failing to meet even the most basic environmental justice principles, including meaningful community engagement. We hope this tool will spur all agencies to improve their commitment to and integration of environmental justice principles in all their program areas and within policy implementation," said Ingrid Brostrom, Senior Attorney at [Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#).

"This year's Environmental Justice Scorecard reflects a deep commitment from many of our legislators to advancing environmental justice policies. This continued commitment ensures that California will center frontline voices, whose leadership is fundamental to achieving a more equitable and just state. The Environmental Justice Scorecard and Environmental Justice Agency Assessment provide joint analyses to more accurately assess both our legislature and state agencies," said Parin Shah, Senior Strategist at [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#).

Despite overall progress in the legislature, the scorecard shows that there are still a number of decision makers who hold important positions of power or represent extremely impacted constituencies who continue to be road blocks by failing to take a strong stand on environmental justice measures. The scorecard also looks at two big disappointments in 2016 for environmental justice, passage of a watered down SB 1383 and failure of the critical SB 1387, which would have added two environmental justice seats to the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The agency assessment highlights deep barriers to improving health and quality of life in low-income communities and communities of color within regulatory agencies, such as the Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC). After years of mismanagement, leadership turnover, and high profile toxic disasters, DTSC has taken steps to reform its programs and bring in new leadership, however, any assessment of state agencies must be rooted in actual improvement on the ground in communities impacted by toxic substances. The EJ Agency Assessment shows that our state regulatory agencies have a responsibility to address the legacy of pollution in low-income communities and communities of color, not simply in preventing future harms, but also in providing redress for the impacts of long-standing, disproportionate burdens of pollution.

“There is still work to be done in order for the victories and strong voting records of 2016 to translate into on-the-ground health and quality of life improvements for communities of color. Since the release of our first scorecard, CEJA has spent several years cultivating environmental justice champions in the legislature and now it is time we see a growth in leadership from our state agencies. In 2017, we will be closely monitoring our new legislators, newly appointed commissioners, the Air Resources Board and Strategic Growth Council to ensure policies are equitably implemented,” said Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director of [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) and one of the lead authors of the reports.

As environmental justice communities brace to be hit first and worst by the rollbacks under the Trump administration, these two reports highlight that to win on environment and climate, California must address the impacts on and prioritize solutions arising from communities of color. Together, the Environmental Justice Scorecard and Agency Assessment will help keep our decision makers accountable and invite them to improve their engagement with impacted communities.

Read the full 2016 Environmental Justice Scorecard & Environmental Justice Agency Assessment available at : www.caleja.org/scorecard2016

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[California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) is a statewide, community-led alliance that works to achieve environmental justice by advancing policy solutions. We unite the powerful local organizing of our members in the communities most impacted by environmental hazards – low-income communities and communities of color – to create comprehensive opportunities for change at a statewide level. We build the power of communities across California to create policies that will alleviate poverty and pollution. Together, we are growing the statewide movement for environmental health and social justice. www.caleja.org