



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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California Legislature Makes Big Steps with Majority Votes on Environmental Justice Bills

*Environmental Justice Advocates Applaud Senate and Assembly Leadership and
Commitment to Environmental Justice*

Sacramento, CA | July 6, 2016 — Members of the [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) expressed appreciation for a range of environmental justice measures in their [2016 Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda](#), which passed committees at the close of the first half of the legislative session last week. The bold steps taken by Senate and Assembly leadership on these bills demonstrate an increase in support of statewide support for environmental justice.

- **AB 2722 (Burke)** - Will create a comprehensive approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by creating a new Transformative Climate Communities program in disadvantaged communities that are most burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution. This program will help cities, local jurisdictions, and communities accelerate sustainability plans and help California meet its ambitious climate change goals.
 - *Passed out of Senate EQ with 5-2 vote. Referred to Sen Appropriations.*
- **SB 1000 (Leyva)** - Will improve local planning efforts to reduce disproportionate environmental and health impacts on California's most vulnerable residents by ensuring that local governments include an EJ element in General Plans when they are updated.
 - *Passed out of Asm Local Gov with 6-3 vote. Referred to Asm Appropriations.*
- **AB 197 (E. Garcia)** - Initiates changes in terms and governance on the Air Resources Board, including setting six year terms for board members, and requires the Board to consider adopting measures that result in direct reductions from major stationary source polluters and from tailpipes, which account for almost 40% of all GHG emissions.
 - *Passed out of Senate EQ with 5-2 vote. Referred to Sen Appropriations.*
- **SB 1387 (De Leon)** - Adds three environmental justice seats/clean air seats to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board, and would strengthen and expedite the process for Air Resources Board to review and approve of the air quality plans of all the air districts.
 - *Passed out of Asm Nat Resources with 6-2 vote. Referred to Asm Appropriations.*

"CEJA is thrilled that so many bills in our 2016 Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda made it past the first half of the legislative session, which reflects the increased leadership and commitment in the Senate and Assembly to making environmental justice a priority in California."

Quentin Foster, Policy Advocate, [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#)

“By drawing on local wisdom and building on California's innovative climate efforts, AB 2722 will transform communities that have long confronted the pernicious impacts of exclusion into trailblazing examples of climate, environmental and economic justice.”

Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director, [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#)

“The quality of life of National City’s residents has improved because of the city’s successful adoption of California’s first Environmental Justice Element. It has taken tremendous community engagement, resources, and time to undo land use mistakes in National City, but thanks to the EJ Element the city is now making healthier planning decisions. We are grateful Senator Connie Leyva has authored SB 1000 and look forward to other communities benefiting from an EJ Element the same way National City has.” **Carolina Martinez, Senior Planner and Policy Advocate, [Environmental Health Coalition](#)**

“For decades, low-income, Asian immigrants and refugees have endured pollution from the Richmond Chevron Refinery, and these residents can realize meaningful improvements in their air and their quality of life with the passage of AB 197. We are glad that policymakers, environmental justice, and green groups are demonstrating broad support for steps to refocus California’s climate policy on reducing pollution and create greater transparency in how our state implements climate policy.”

Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director, [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)

"SB 1387, by adding three EJ seats to the Governing Board of South Coast AQMD, is absolutely essential to begin the process of meaningful reform at the agency, especially given the board's recent poor performance and its impacts on low-income communities and communities of color."

Bahram Fazeli, Research and Policy Director, [Communities for a Better Environment](#)

[Visit our website to read CEJA's full 2016 Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda.](#)

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[California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) is a statewide coalition of grassroots, environmental justice organizations building a movement among low-income communities and communities of color most impacted by environmental issues to demand change. 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.

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