



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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California Legislature Passes Historic Climate Bills That Advance Environmental Justice

SB 32 and AB 197 Pass Floor Votes; Senate Moves An Ambitious Climate Investment Plan Forward

Sacramento, CA | August 24, 2016 — In a historic set of votes, SB 32 (Pavley) and AB 197 (E. Garcia) passed off the Senate and Assembly floors in votes of 25-13 (SB 32, Senate Floor) and 44-28 (AB 197, Assembly Floor). These two climate policies set California on an ambitious course to address climate change, while enacting important measures to protect and benefit low-income communities and communities of color on the frontlines of climate change.

“Low-income, Asian immigrants and refugees across the state, from Richmond to the Central Valley, have long endured fossil fuel pollution in our backyards. We urgently need climate solutions that reduce local pollution and carbon emissions, and today’s victory brings these solutions and critical investments to our most deeply impacted neighborhoods,” said Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director of the [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#).

SB 32 by Senator Fran Pavley will help keep California a climate leader by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030. AB 197 by Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia ensures that the policies we set to meet this target are driven by equity with legislative oversight, agency accountability, and data transparency at the California Air Resources Board.

“AB 197 and SB 32 maintain California’s climate leadership, while creating policies that will directly benefit and protect communities on the frontlines of climate change. We applaud Speaker Rendon, Senate pro Tem De Leon, Assemblymember Eduardo Garcia, and Senator Pavley on the passage of these historic bills,” said Quentin Foster, Policy Advocate at the [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#).

AB 197 includes important equity provisions that not only help achieve local emission reductions, which are critical to the health of environmental justice communities, but also ensure public transparency and engagement.

“AB 197 will help address the needs of the Coachella Valley and other underserved communities. This bill goes beyond just the environment and promotes a different approach to healthy communities, one that looks to root out the causes of our problems. Passing both SB 32 and AB 197 will send a message to those underrepresented in the state that their needs matter, said Mariela Magana, Policy Advocate at [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#) and a resident of Assemblymember Garcia’s district.

Simultaneously, the Senate has proposed an ambitious Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) spending plan, outlined in SB 1613, which includes a strong focus on investing existing climate revenues in programs

that directly benefit low-income communities and communities of color. Once the plan moves from the Senate floor, it will be taken up in the Assembly. The spending plan is available [here](#).

“The Senate’s proposal to fund the Transformative Climate Communities at \$175 million demonstrates a commitment to integrated, innovative programs that direct deep investments into communities on the frontlines of climate change. The Transformative Climate Communities program, which would be created with the passage of AB 2722 by Assemblymember Autumn Burke, will invest in environmental justice communities by advancing climate plans with public health and economic benefits,” said Foster.

SB 32, AB 197, AB 2722, and a strong GGRF spending plan are all key components to an equitable and comprehensive climate policy package that will lead to cleaner air, improved public health, and put California on a path to addressing the impacts of climate change.

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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