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Environmental Justice Advocates Call on Governor Brown to Sign AB 2447 (Reyes) and SB 100 (de León)

CEJA Members Challenge Legislators To Do More for Equity in 2019

Sacramento, CA | September 6, 2018 — California Environmental Justice Alliance members and partners express appreciation for a range of environmental justice measures that were passed by the legislature last week, calling on Governor Brown to sign these bills into law, particularly SB 100 (de León) and AB 2447 (Reyes). They urge legislators to do more to bring equity into state energy (SB 64) and water policy (SB 844, SB 845) by following up on bills that failed to make it out of the legislature.

AB 2447, the Vulnerable Communities Inclusion Act, would require government agencies to notify residents of California's most burdened communities of new or expanding polluting facilities in their own languages.

"AB 2447 will ensure that residents of our state's most pollution-burdened communities have a voice in industrial land use decisions that may impact their neighborhoods, their homes, and their health. We urge Governor Brown to advance California's role as an environmental justice leader by signing AB 2447," said **Ashley Werner, Senior Attorney, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**.

CEJA also urges Governor Brown to sign SB 100, which would establish a goal for the state to satisfy all its electricity needs with carbon-free resources by 2045.

"SB 100 will transition our state away from fossil fuels that have disproportionately impacted the most disadvantaged communities and communities of color. But as California transitions to a low carbon grid, protections are needed to ensure that air quality in environmental justice communities and communities breathing unhealthy air does not get worse," said **Gladys Limon, Executive Director, California Environmental Justice Alliance**.

However, the legislature failed to pass a complementary measure, SB 64, which would have protected EJ communities from spikes in pollution from a reliance on natural gas plants during the transition.

"SB 64 would have given us the data we need to determine when and where pollution is most present in our state's working class communities of color. We are disappointed that a handful of officials decided to stand with the oil and gas industry rather than with the residents of their districts. This is information about the health of our neighborhoods that all communities deserve. We will continue to advocate for data transparency bills like SB 64 so that we may make good policy decisions based on facts and data," said **Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director, Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)**.

The Assembly unfortunately failed to take action on the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund by passing SB 844 and SB 845 (Monning and Vidak). We are committed to holding Speaker Rendon accountable to his commitment to secure sustainable funding for safe drinking water in 2019.

"While we are disappointed that politics won out over good policy this year, we look forward to the fight ahead for safe drinking water. A secure, sustainable funding source for safe drinking water is no less

urgent today as it was last week, and unfortunately it will be no less urgent next year. Thirsty today, we will only grow thirstier in anticipation of the legislative effort we will undertake with our coalition in the next legislative session,” said **Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability.**

In 2019, we will also continue to monitor the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) to protect communities from the harmful effects of toxic substances, enforce hazardous waste laws, reduce hazardous waste generation, and encourage the manufacture of chemically safer products.

“We are very concerned about the Department of Toxic Substances Control’s ability to protect public health when it has essentially run out of funding. If we do not quickly and fully commit the resources necessary to responsibly and safely manage our state’s most hazardous waste, our most vulnerable communities will continue to bear an unreasonable risk of toxic exposure and illness,” said **Ingrid Brostrom, Assistant Director, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment.**

As Governor Brown claims the media center stage with the Global Climate Action Summit this September, frontline communities will demand bolder leadership at the [Rise for Climate, Jobs, and Justice](#) march (9/8) and the [Solidarity to Solutions Summit](#) (9/11), and through the next session.

“We need legislators to demonstrate leadership and stand firmly in representing their constituents in environmental justice communities who urgently need to see improvements in their neighborhoods,” said **Gladys Limon, Executive Director, California Environmental Justice Alliance.** “Especially as climate change worsens our air and environmental quality, our communities require uncompromised, sober leadership to advance policies that truly reflect and meet the climate crisis and protect all Californians.”

In October, CEJA will release its annual Environmental Justice Scorecard, the only scorecard in the state that assesses how legislators voted on environmental policies that impact low-income communities and communities of color.

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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.
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