



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Governor Newsom's Budget Sets Stage for a Just Transition from Fossil Fuels *May Revise Creates First Steps for Workforce Transition with Investments in Job Training*

Sacramento, CA | May 10, 2019 — Governor Newsom released a revised budget plan yesterday including environmental justice measures and an unprecedented investment to plan to transition California away from fossil fuels.

The Governor's budget provides a significant investment to improve the health and well-being of the most environmentally disadvantaged communities and to prepare workers to build a thriving green economy. The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) expressed appreciation for the Governor's critical recognition of the need for a decline of fossil fuel supply in the state.

Gladys Limón, CEJA's Executive Director, stated: "The fossil fuel-based economy has come at the grave cost of the health and safety of communities next to oil and gas operations, and has now caught up with all of us and threatens human existence. We appreciate Governor Newsom's important first steps toward a fossil fuel phase out, and hope he will prioritize relieving frontline communities of the unconscionable burdens they currently face."

Governor Newsom has publicly recognized the need for a future free of fossil fuels, and his budget includes "*a careful study and planning to decrease demand and supply of fossil fuels, while managing the decline in a way that is economically responsible and sustainable.*"

In communities like Kern County and South Los Angeles, Latino and Black families on the frontlines of oil extraction breathe toxic air everyday. To protect families and children, Governor Newsom should swiftly proceed with a commonsense health and safety buffer between oil operations and homes and schools. This is an integral part of a transition that centers equity and builds the healthy future California needs.

We also commend the Governor's plan to provide for "*apprenticeships and job training in careers that will build a future green economy,*" including "*an emphasis on regions and industries that have been traditionally dependent on fossil fuels, including Kern County.*" California must continue to invest in transitioning impacted workers into high-wage jobs to ensure they can thrive in the new energy economy.

CEJA also applauds the Governor's strong investment of \$132 million in the Transformative Climate Communities program. The program targets the most environmentally impacted communities by funding innovative and community-led solutions to reduce emissions, create high quality local jobs, and address climate impacts at the neighborhood scale.

As we approach another wildfire season in California, CEJA is pleased to see Governor Newsom include a comprehensive section in the May budget revise on emergency preparedness, response and recovery. We look forward to working with his administration to ensure that these funds reach the most vulnerable

communities, including protections for low-income workers and urgently needed culturally relevant planning and response efforts that center resilience and the most effective mitigation.

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The [California Environmental Justice Alliance](https://www.caleja.org) 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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