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**2019 Scorecard Names Four Visionary CA Legislators Environmental Justice Champions**  
*Comprehensive Report Reveals Scores for 120 State Representatives and Governor Newsom*

Sacramento, CA | February 13, 2020 – Today, California Environmental Justice Alliance Action released its 2019 Environmental Justice Scorecard. The scorecard features scores for every state representative, based on their votes on key environmental justice legislation of the 2019 session. Four legislators — one Senator and three Assemblymembers — were named Environmental Justice Champions. Full information on the scoring process, along with a downloadable scorecard, is found at [www.caleja.org/scorecard2019](http://www.caleja.org/scorecard2019).

30 of CA's 120 state's legislators scored perfect 100's on the Scorecard, a marked improvement over 2018 and prior sessions. In addition, each of the 11 bills advocated for by CEJA and its allies passed both houses and were made law by Governor Newsom. However, this progress is mostly due to the nature of the bills, many of which were heavily negotiated to be less controversial. With the 2020 session revving up, the environmental justice movement will look to Sacramento to deepen its commitment to governing by the Environmental Justice principles.

"CEJA's Scorecard marks a momentous year for our work in California -- more legislators than ever before earned high scores, and for the first time we are qualifying our champions by defining Environmental Justice Principles. Being an Environmental Justice Champion is more than a score - it is about partnering with impacted communities to pursue environmental justice. In a time when national politics threaten our environmental justice communities on multiple fronts, California has a responsibility to show leadership. We hope this Scorecard will help illuminate a path for more legislators to join our fight in 2020." -- **Katie Valenzuela, CEJA Policy & Political Director**

Leading the way for Environmental Justice in Sacramento were the four legislators named EJ Champions -- **Sen. Connie Leyva** (SD-20), **Asm. Monique Limón** (AD-37), **Asm. Al Muratsuchi** (AD-66) and **Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes** (AD-47).

"As legislators, we must work to ensure Californians have clean water, clean air and access to parks and beaches. Environmental Justice creates equitable access, provides equitable resources, and improves our quality of life while upholding and protecting vulnerable communities. I thank CEJA for the recognition and I am committed to continuing to be an environmental champion." -- **Asm. Monique Limón** (AD-37), **CEJA Environmental Justice Champion**

“Representing the community means being willing to stand up and speak out against the environmental injustices that affect the air we breathe and our quality of life. Environmental justice is my priority now -- and for the future.” -- **Asm. Eloise Gómez Reyes (AD-47), CEJA Environmental Justice Champion**

Both Limón and Gomez Reyes authored key Environmental Justice legislation in 2019. The EJ Scorecard praises Limón’s work reorienting DOGGR (Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources) to a focus on public health and Gomez Reyes’ commitment to accessibility and transparency with community groups.

A first time Champion, Asm. Al Muratsuchi was instrumental in several key legislative victories -- including passage of AB 342 and the defeat of AB 1299. He is expected to lead the way again this year on a key EJ bill: AB 345, an attempt to mandate safe, reasonable buffer zones between oil/gas drill sites and our homes, schools and hospitals.

“I am honored to receive this honor from CEJA because we share a commitment to environmental justice. I am especially proud to work together on AB 345, which will protect our children and families living near oil extraction sites. I look forward to continuing to fight together for clean air and safe drinking water for all Californians,” -- **Asm. Al Muratsuchi (AD-66), CEJA Environmental Justice Champion**

The Scorecard also assesses Governor Newsom’s performance on Environmental Justice issues in 2019, praising the Governor’s role in securing passage -- and adoption -- of several key measures, including ones pursuing carbon neutrality, oil and gas regulations to protect health and safety, and reform at the Department of Toxic Substances Control. However, the Scorecard notes the Governor’s disappointing lack of direct and meaningful engagement with environmental justice communities and advocates, particularly before making key appointments.

Several first-year lawmakers who made notable contributions to Environmental Justice efforts were each singled out for praise. **Asm. Robert Rivas, Sen. Lena Gonzalez and Sen. Maria Elena Durazo** earned high marks by supporting critical bills and community transparency efforts. On the flipside, **Sen. Melissa Hurtado** was an exception to the first-year trend, earning criticism by authoring disastrous legislation and voting to eliminate environmental protections for rural areas.

In an additional layer of analysis, scores were issued to the Asian-Pacific Islander Caucus, Black Caucus and Latino Caucus. Each group scored higher, on average, than an average legislator, showing again that when legislators of color are empowered, issues facing diverse communities are better addressed.

“Having grown up and raised a family in the Inland Empire, I appreciate the important work CEJA does for our region and across California. As author of SB 1000, requiring cities and counties to address environmental justice in their general plans, I know that CEJA’s leadership fosters and develops healthy communities throughout California. As environmental protections continue to be rolled back at the federal level, it’s critically important that organizations like CEJA continue addressing environmental issues that disproportionately impact low-income communities and communities of color. I look forward to working together for years to come.” -- **Sen. Connie M. Leyva (SD-20) CEJA Environmental Justice Champion**

**Download the CEJA 2020 EJ Scorecard at [www.caleja.org/scorecard2019](http://www.caleja.org/scorecard2019).**

**CEJA Action Environmental Justice Principles:**

- Prioritize and value harm prevention, human health, and improved quality of life
- Do no harm

- Prioritize environmental justice communities
- Meaningfully engage with communities
- Be proactive
- Take an intersectional approach
- Be responsive
- Respect community expertise

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**California Environmental Justice Alliance Action** (CEJA Action) builds the political power of communities of color to advance environmentally and socially just policies in California. We accomplish this by engaging voters in communities of color, organizing and training grassroots leaders to engage in civic and electoral politics, and advocacy to advance critical policies that will improve the health and quality of life in communities of color. We believe California's communities of color are a powerful force for equitable environmental policies and a more participatory, inclusive democracy.