



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Environmental Justice Communities Call for Strong Climate Leadership, Innovation, and Localized Air Quality Improvements *EJ Advocates Remain Committed to Effective and Equitable Climate Policies*

Sacramento, CA | June 1, 2017 — As Trump pulls the United States out of the Paris Agreement, California's global climate leadership must be clearly linked to addressing environmental justice concerns in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and on the frontlines of climate change. Unfortunately, California's Assembly failed to demonstrate strong climate and environmental justice leadership when they did not pass AB 378 by Cristina Garcia, Chris Holden, and Eduardo Garcia, a key bill that would have addressed air quality concerns in environmental justice communities.

AB 378 would have required new emissions standards for criteria and toxic air pollutants at facilities covered under cap and trade, and authorized the Air Resources Board to adopt specific measures that would limit or prohibit trading of carbon allowances in environmental justice communities. The measure did not pass the Assembly floor in a vote late Thursday night.

"Last year California set in law the most ambitious climate target in the world and we did so with environmental justice at the center. We know that with leaders like the bill's co-authors as well as Speaker Rendon, pro Tem De Leon and Governor Brown we will still reach our targets and improve air quality."

— **Miya Yoshitani, Executive Director of Asian Pacific Environmental Network**

"CEJA remains resolute in the fight against climate change and will continue our efforts to fight for and with communities on the frontlines. The next phase of California's global climate leadership will be the innovation and courage to place environmental justice principles at the core of climate policy. Air quality concerns in environmental justice communities must be addressed and our state's major greenhouse gas emitters must reduce pollution in California's air quality hot spots. We look forward to working with the office of Governor Brown, Senate President pro Tem Kevin de León, and Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon to advance the most effective and equitable climate policies to reach our 2030 greenhouse gas reduction targets while reducing local air and climate pollution."

— **Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director of California Environmental Justice Alliance**

"The leadership and dedication of environmental justice champions like Cristina Garcia, Eduardo Garcia, and Chris Holden will neither be diminished by this outcome nor forgotten by community-based organizations throughout California. We will continue to work in solidarity with them and the environmental justice movement to secure the reduction of carbon emissions globally and allow people to breathe easier at home."

— **Brent Newell, Legal Director of Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment**

"We are disappointed that representatives from the San Joaquin Valley - home to five of the metropolitan areas with the worst air in the country - have failed their constituents once again. We look forward to working with community leaders across the San Joaquin and East Coachella Valleys to advance meaningful and just policies that put people first."

— **Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director of Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability**

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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

