



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Speaker Atkins Appoints Longtime Environmental Justice Leader Diane Takvorian to California Air Resources Board

*New representation on ARB will help better address air and climate quality issues
affecting communities of color throughout the state*

Sacramento, CA | February 5, 2016 — Yesterday, Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) announced the appointment of longtime environmental justice leader Diane Takvorian to the California Air Resources Board. Under the leadership of Speaker Atkins and Senator Fran Pavley, AB 1288 was signed into law last year which adds two new seats to the ARB for representatives who work directly with communities vulnerable to climate and air pollution. Diane Takvorian is a co-founder and steering committee member of the [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#), one of the strongest supporters of AB 1288 who helped usher the bill into law last year. The appointment is welcomed by environmental justice advocates throughout the state who will finally have a champion at the decision-making table.

"I am grateful for Speaker Toni Atkins' leadership and vision as the author of AB 1288 that created the historic opportunity for environmental justice representatives to be members of the Air Resources Board," says Executive Director of [Environmental Health Coalition](#), Diane Takvorian. "Air pollution throughout California, particularly in low income communities and communities of color in and near heavy industrial areas and transportation corridors, threatens the public's health and contributes to climate change that critically endangers our environment and economic well-being. I'm looking forward to working with California Environmental Justice Alliance members to improve the health of our communities, families and our children."

The new ARB seats ensure that environmental justice communities are represented at the highest levels of decision-making. The representatives, who must work directly with environmental justice communities, will ensure the Air Resources Board performs more equitably and responds more effectively to issues in communities overburdened by pollution. Environmental justice communities have been at the front lines of the crisis, and we are on the forefront of the solutions — we are taking our place at the highest levels of decision-making on climate.

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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