



# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Outraged by Passing of Cap-and-Trade Extension, Environmental Justice Advocates Respond**

*AB 398 and Companion Bill ACA 1 Pass Legislature with Host of Industry Concessions  
and Potential for Negative Community Impacts*

**Sacramento, CA | July 18, 2017** — In response to Monday's passing of AB 398 and ACA 1, Cap-and-Trade Extension Legislation, the California Environmental Justice Alliance and its members released the following statements:

"Rather than showing a bold, innovative vision for California climate policy, Governor Brown and our legislative leadership provided industry concessions that undermine the tools our state has to fight climate change. AB 398 extends the cap and trade program, but actually increases industry hand-outs. These loopholes hinder our ability to achieve on-the-ground greenhouse gas emission reductions, while unnecessarily tying the hands of local and statewide regulatory authorities. California's most vulnerable communities will bear the burden of these failures: low-income communities and communities of color will continue to be the hardest hit by harmful pollutants and the unforgiving environmental impacts of climate change. We are also disappointed that our Democratic leaders approved ACA 1, which will bring an initiative before the voters in 2018 to decide whether or not climate revenues should be subject to a two-thirds vote in 2024. This sets a dangerous precedent for supermajority votes on the budget, where a small number of legislators can enact major policy concessions. Instead of setting a national precedent for aggressive, equitable climate policy, we rolled out the red carpet for industry. We believe that California can and should do better and will work hard to hold all of our elected officials accountable for these votes in the coming years."

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

"The passage of AB 398 is not the leadership we expect from our elected leaders. There are just too many give-aways to Big Oil. This bill purposefully undermines the authority of local and state agencies, like the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, to do their job to protect the air and health of our neighborhoods. It trades green jobs and investments meant for environmental justice communities for tax breaks to the industries that have brought us the climate and air quality problems we are living with day in and day out. We will continue to fight for what all California residents expect and need – clean air, good jobs, and a healthy planet."

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

"Environmental justice must be at the heart of climate policy. Instead, the California Senate passed a bill written by and for Big Oil that sacrifices California communities for low-cost 'compliance' elsewhere while Governor Brown and legislative leaders refused reasonable amendments to finally provide environmental justice."

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

“Our legislative leaders squandered an opportunity this year to capitalize on California's leadership and improve upon the greenhouse gas emission reduction policies that have evolved over the past decade. Instead of correcting deficiencies, we have chosen instead to expand them; instead of passing a carbon policy to reduce vulnerability in fenceline communities, we have chosen to eliminate safeguards; instead of taking a giant step forward, we have chosen instead to shuffle backward.”

**Veronica Garibay, Co-Director, 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](http://www.caleja.org)



