



## CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **New “Transformative Climate Communities” Bill Will Create Comprehensive Investments in California’s Most Vulnerable Communities**

#### *New Bill Proposes Innovative Approach to Achieving Climate and Equity Goals*

**Sacramento, CA** - Today, Assemblywoman Autumn R. Burke (D-Inglewood) introduced legislation to achieve large-scale, comprehensive investments in California’s most vulnerable communities. AB 2722 will create a new statewide program that aims to help California achieve our climate goals through a new “Transformative Climate Communities” program.

“This is a time in California’s history that we can truly make a difference in communities that have been heavily polluted and repeatedly marginalized,” said Burke. “We have ambitious goals to meet, and it’s going to take every community to get there.”

AB 2722 gives \$250 million to fund Transformative Climate Communities program at the Strategic Growth Council, in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs. The program will award large grants to develop and implement neighborhood-level plans that include multiple, coordinated greenhouse gas reduction projects that provide local economic, workforce, environmental and health benefits. By making this comprehensive public investment in local communities, private resources can be effectively catalyzed to support innovative community and climate transformation in disadvantaged communities.

The investments will be focused on communities most impacted by pollution and vulnerable to climate change. It emphasizes community engagement in developing and implementing a suite of beneficial projects, while promoting sustainable community development.

“Many community-based organizations have been doing the exact type of community-led planning that this new program would support, or are in need of this type of program. Residents in overburdened communities face a range of challenges, and we need state programs that promote solutions to all of these issues in a holistic manner. And we need these programs to be directly connected to and led by the residents most impacted. AB 2722 accomplishes this, while helping California achieve our climate goals,” said Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director of the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA), the bill’s sponsor.

The new program will promote an integrated, collaborative approach. It breaks out of the project-specific silos that has characterized most Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund spending thus far. It also seeks to promote multi-stakeholder collaborations and leverage a range of funding sources, including private sector, to achieve large-scale impact.

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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)