



## **AB 2722 – Transformative Climate Communities**

### **SUMMARY**

Assembly Bill 2722 creates a comprehensive approach to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by investing \$250,000,000 in Transformative Climate Community Plans in disadvantaged communities that are most burdened by, and vulnerable to, high levels of pollution.

### **BACKGROUND**

Existing law pursuant to Assembly Bill 32 the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 created statewide greenhouse gas emission limits equivalent to 1990 levels by 2020 and authorized the California Air Resources Board to use a market-based mechanism to reach that objective, also known as Cap-and-Trade.

Additionally, the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund was also created to collect the funds generated from the auction or sale of allowances in the Cap-and-Trade system.

In 2012, Senate Bill 535 by Senator Kevin de Leon required the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Investment Plan to distribute a minimum of 25% of the money in the fund projects located within disadvantaged communities identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency screening tool, CalEnviroScreen 2.0.

AB 2722 creates much-needed, new program to ensure that California is making comprehensive, cross-cutting, and transformative climate investments that achieve multiple greenhouse gas, public health and economic benefits in our state's most vulnerable communities.

### **AB 2722**

Specifically, AB 2722 creates a Transformative Climate Communities Program administered by the Strategic Growth Council in coordination with the California Environmental Protection Agency

Assistant Secretary for Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs.

This bill appropriates \$250,000,000 from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to award grants to development and implement neighborhood-level Transformative Climate Communities Plans that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

AB 2722 grants will be awarded to local community development groups and local agencies that can demonstrate a partnership with a community based organizations with a transformative climate community plan that demonstrates climate, economic, workforce, health, and environmental benefits to the community. Grants will be awarded for both planning and implementation. Eligible entities must be located in disadvantaged communities.

Each transformative climate community shall contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gas emission through at least three of the following; renewable energy, weatherization and energy efficiency, green infrastructure and urban forestry, active transportation, low-carbon and public transit, transit oriented affordable housing, effective land use, water use efficiency, and waste reduction.

In implementing AB 2722, the Strategic Growth Council shall work to identify additional sources of public and private funding to maintain the program long-term.

This program will help cities, local jurisdictions, and communities accelerate sustainability plans and help California meet its ambitious climate change goals.

### **SUPPORT**

California Environmental Justice Alliance – Sponsor  
Greenlining Institute – Sponsor

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