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Governor Signs Two Climate Bills to Increase Investments for Environmental Justice Communities

AB 2722 secures \$140 million for new Transformative Climate Communities Program

Sacramento, CA | September 15, 2016 — Yesterday, Governor Brown signed new laws to boost climate change spending in California's low-income communities of color. The California Environmental Justice Alliance was a proud sponsor of AB 2722 by Assemblymember Autumn Burke (D-Inglewood) and Assemblymember Joaquin Arambula (D-Fresno) which creates the Transformative Climate Communities program that will increase investments in environmental justice communities with \$140 million in funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. We applaud the leadership of both Assemblymembers and thank Governor Brown for his climate leadership.

"This is a big shift in environmental policy for California, and it proves we can champion environmental justice and create jobs at the same time. With this investment, we're giving heavily polluted neighborhoods a chance at a cleaner, brighter future and boosting the local economy."

Assemblymember Autumn R. Burke

"The signing of AB 2722 will result in an investment of funds into California's poorest communities. Focusing on neighborhood-level plans will lead to the greatest impact for all Californians and will achieve economic, environmental, and medical benefits for the most disadvantaged communities. I am proud to be a co-author of this ground breaking piece of legislation which will bring much needed resources to the San Joaquin Valley."

Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula

"The new Transformative Climate Communities program created by AB 2722 and funded by AB 1613 will ensure deep investments in our most overburdened communities. It will fund large-scale climate projects that have public health, social and economic benefits in areas that are on the frontlines of climate change, helping these communities transition towards the sustainable, resilient and just future we need."

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

AB 1550 was also signed by Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez (D-Los Angeles) which requires allocation of a minimum of 25% of the available moneys in the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund to projects located within, and benefitting individuals living in, disadvantaged communities and a separate and additional unspecified percentage to projects that benefit low-income households, with a fair share of those moneys targeting households with incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.

"The passage of this year's historic climate legislation package means that by 2030, California communities will be less polluted and more resilient. AB 1550 and AB 2722 are critical to ensuring that disadvantaged communities — largely low-income communities of color — are at the center of this transformation."

Laura Muraida, Research Director at Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education (SCOPE)

Together, AB 2722 and AB 1550 will expand California's commitment to use climate change policy to attack pollution and poverty and sets the groundwork for securing even more critical investments in the future for our neighborhoods most deeply impacted by the climate and economic crisis.

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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