



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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## **Advocates Commend Increased Investments for Environmental Justice Communities In Proposed Climate Spending Plans**

*Senate Leadership Proposes \$400 million for Transformative Climate Communities*

**Sacramento, CA | May 27, 2016** — Members of the [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#) and other organizations committed to advancing equitable policy solutions, expressed appreciation and support for a range of environmental justice measures included in spending plans released this week.

The Senate's proposed Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund spending plan includes \$400 million for Transformative Climate Communities, \$100 million for Urban Greening, and notably did not include funding for dairy digesters, facilities with significant negative local impacts on communities where they are sited. The Transformative Climate Communities, strongly supported by CEJA and other equity groups, is a proposed, large-scale grant program that would invest in comprehensive, neighborhood-level solutions to achieve our state's climate goals. Moving through the legislature is also a bill that has outlined some parameters for the Transformative Climate Communities program, Assembly Member Burke's AB 2722. The program was also included in the Governor and the Assembly spending plans, but at a much lower level.

CEJA members and allies praised budget allocations that would support clean transportation in environmental justice communities and investments in safe, reliable and affordable drinking water. The Governor's May Revise also included increased spending on environmental justice, including funding for an already existing program at the California Environmental Protection Agency that uses an integrated approach to environmental enforcement in overburdened communities. Advocates noted the need to secure increased funding for Environmental Justice Small Grants in all three proposed spending plans.

"Through its strong support of the Transformative Climate Communities program, Senate leadership has demonstrated its commitment to solutions that reduce local emissions while providing multiple local economic, workforce, environmental, and health-related benefits to communities most impacted by pollution across the state. We encourage the Senate to work with the Assembly, in particular Assembly Member Burke, to ensure this much-needed program is created."

**Amy Vanderwarker, Co-Director, [California Environmental Justice Alliance](#)**

"We applaud the Senate leadership on fully funding Transformative Climate Communities, which will help fence line communities like Richmond spur a just transition away from fossil fuels and towards a low carbon economy and greater local self determination."

**Parin Shah, Senior Strategist, [Asian Pacific Environmental Network](#)**

"The Senate Budget Committee deserves credit for declining to subsidize polluting industrialized factory dairies. Dairy digesters add air pollution by burning methane from industrialized factory dairies in the San Joaquin Valley, where many residents suffer unnecessarily from extreme air pollution. Money to reduce

climate pollutants should not harm already overburdened communities, but rather support pasture-based dairy operations which avoid methane-spewing liquefied manure lagoons, reduce air pollution, and promote healthy grasslands that absorb climate pollution in the soil.”

**Brent Newell, Legal Director, [Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment](#)**

“Urban greening funds have allowed us to take advantage of new funding sources which we are using to create multi benefit green infrastructure projects. These projects will not only create a greener and healthier community but will also help the State meet its goals to reduce carbon emissions.”

**Veronica Padilla-Campos, Executive Director, [Pacoima Beautiful](#)**

“We applaud Legislature’s commitment to clean and active transportation programs, and we hope to see increased funding in this category that will help California meet its clean transportation goals and create access for all Californians especially those most in need such as communities in Southeast Los Angeles.”

**Bahram Fazeli, Director of Research and Policy, [Communities for a Better Environment](#)**

“We are pleased to see such commitment to safe, reliable and affordable drinking water with the Assembly’s recommended 20 million dollar investment in emergency drinking water support and safe water in schools and the Senate’s allocation of 50 million dollars to improve water efficiency and conservation as part of its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund package.”

**Phoebe Seaton, Co-Director, [Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability](#)**

“We recognize and praise the Senate for making a commitment to solving poverty and pollution in our state’s most disadvantaged communities by providing strong funding for programs like Transformative Climate Communities.”

**Alvaro Sanchez, Environmental Equity Director, [The Greenlining Institute](#)**

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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)