



2019 Environmental Justice Legislative Agenda

PRIORITIES

SUPPORT: AB 423 (Gloria) San Diego Air District

Restructures the San Diego Air Pollution Control District Board so that it better reflects the diversity of San Diego County residents. The Board would include representation from additional San Diego cities and public members, including an environmental justice representative.

SUPPORT: AB 1232 (Gloria) Healthy Homes Act

Studies the need for anti-displacement protections for state energy efficiency programs serving low-income customers. The bill guides agencies in data collection to ensure enforceability of existing affordability agreements and to better penetrate the unregulated affordable housing market. The bill would also increase coordination and collaboration between the Low Income Weatherization Program and public health programs addressing health issues in homes of vulnerable residents.

SUPPORT: Department of Toxic Substances Control Reform

Ensures lasting accountability and transparency within the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) by creating the California Toxic Substances Board which grants additional oversight of DTSC's programmatic and fiscal functions.

SUPPORT: AB 1628 (R. Rivas) Definition of Environmental Justice

Enhances the state's definition of environmental justice to ensure all voices are heard, and supports the Attorney General's Bureau of Environmental Justice in its efforts to protect vulnerable communities from environmental hazards.

SUPPORT: SB 160 (Jackson) Cultural Competence in Emergency Planning

Requires counties to engage communities when updating emergency plans to ensure that local disaster preparedness and response activities (i.e. alerts, communications, evacuations, and sheltering) are culturally competent and meet diverse needs. This bill prioritizes reaching culturally diverse communities including immigrant and refugees and low-income communities of color among other groups.

DRINKING WATER | INFRASTRUCTURE

SUPPORT: AB 600 (Chu) Regional Planning - Disadvantaged Unincorporated Communities

AB 600 encourages equitable development by closing a current loophole that allows for small, individual annexations that exclude disadvantaged unincorporated communities and prevents their access to basic services, including water and wastewater. By focusing on vulnerable communities, AB 600 carries forward the important work of ensuring that DUCs throughout the state are not disregarded in development decisions.

SUPPORT: AB 508 (Chu) Consolidation and Extension of Water Service

Improves the State Water Resources Control Board's (SWRCB) process for ordering mandatory extension of drinking water service to households reliant on domestic wells. It would also require the SWRCB to provide additional information about drinking water problems and potential solutions to renters, as well as prevent additional fees.

GREEN ZONES

SUPPORT: SB 351 (Hurtado) Transformative Climate Communities

Expands the authority of the Strategic Growth Council to award neighborhood-level Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) implementation Grants to projects located in both incorporated and unincorporated communities. This bill would improve access to these grants by broadening eligibility to historically underinvested unincorporated areas where a significant percentage of the residents are low-income and people of color.

SUPPORT: AB 1578 (L. Rivas) School Pavement to Parks Grant Program

Establishes the School Pavement to Parks Grant Program for purposes of providing grants to applicant school districts maintaining schools in disadvantaged and low income communities to convert portions of existing asphalt or trees less playgrounds at schools into green spaces. This will allow park-poor and underserved communities to provide green spaces where kids and students can play outside and enjoy nature of heat island effect in urban underserved communities. This program will also help the state improve regional air quality, while reducing the impacts of heat island effects in underserved communities.

TRANSPORTATION

SUPPORT: SB 210 (Leyva) Heavy-Duty Vehicle Inspections and Maintenance Program

Authorizes the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and implement a comprehensive heavy-duty vehicle inspection and maintenance program, including fees and penalties for noncompliance to be deposited into the new Truck Emission Check Fund.

OTHER

SUPPORT: AB 857 (Chiu) Public Banks

Will allow local governments to apply for a banking license from the Department of Business Oversight (DBO) to establish public banks. This important legislation will empower local governments in California with the ability to invest, lend and provide banking services to their local communities.

SUPPORT: AB 5 (Gonzalez) Dynamex Decision

Codify and clarify the Dynamex Decision, which was a unanimous ruling by the CA Supreme Court to distinguish a contract worker from an employee and can help reduce exploitation of workers. Misclassification has been a particular problem in the trucking industry, especially around ports, and has made it much harder to get old equipment updated to less polluting equipment.

For more information, please visit www.caleja.org or contact Diana Vazquez

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