



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

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Contact: Isa Flores-Jones  
isa@caleja.org

**Governor Newsom Omits Climate and Environmental Justice from State of the State**

**Sacramento, CA | Feb. 19, 2020**—In today’s State of the State address, Governor Newsom dedicated unprecedented attention to the crises of affordable housing and homelessness in California. As a member-led alliance whose communities confront the double burden of economic insecurity and environmental toxins on a daily basis, CEJA applauds the Governor’s acknowledgment of the urgent need for safe, sustainable, and affordable housing for all Californians while also urging the Governor to take immediate action in securing the environmental health of all Californians.

***Katie Valenzuela, CEJA Policy & Political Director, responded to the Governor’s address with the following statement:***

Today, we cannot celebrate the Governor's commitment to the ongoing housing shortage and homelessness crisis without recognizing the continued need for the administration to connect housing justice with environmental justice. The climate crisis will only continue to exacerbate our housing challenges, while disproportionately impacting low-income and housing insecure households. Pursuing a holistic and community-led approach is possible. For this reason, CEJA’s Environmental Justice Scorecard has set a precedent of evaluating legislators’ policy proposals against the principles of the environmental justice movement. Today, the Governor’s speech didn’t pass the test. Streamlining the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) will not address the underlying inequity in how and where housing is built.<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, CEJA looks forward to working with the Governor and housing advocates to achieve safe and affordable housing for all Californians, while ensuring that our state’s most vulnerable residents are not inadvertently exposed to toxic hazards and other dangers in their own homes. CEJA hopes the Governor will lead by addressing the root of these toxic hazards by phasing out polluting industries, transitioning our energy systems to locally-produced renewable power, and proactively consulting environmental justice communities about decisions before they are made. We look forward to working with the Administration on implementing these EJ principles this year and beyond.

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[California Environmental Justice Alliance \(CEJA\)](#) is a community-led alliance advancing environmental justice through policy solutions. Since 2011, CEJA has united the powerful local organizing of our members in the communities most impacted by environmental hazards –

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<sup>1</sup> See: The Rose Foundation (2016): *CEQA in the 21st Century*  
<https://rosefdn.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/CEQA-in-the-21st-Century.pdf>.

UC Berkeley Law (2018): *Getting it Right*  
[https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Getting\\_It\\_Right.pdf](https://www.law.berkeley.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Getting_It_Right.pdf); CEQA and Housing Production:  
[https://senv.senate.ca.gov/sites/senv.senate.ca.gov/files/ceqa\\_and\\_housing\\_production\\_report.pdf](https://senv.senate.ca.gov/sites/senv.senate.ca.gov/files/ceqa_and_housing_production_report.pdf)

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. Read the recently released EJ Scorecard here: <https://caleja.org/2020/02/2019-environmental-justice-scorecard/>