



CALIFORNIA  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
JUSTICE ALLIANCE

# ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD 2020





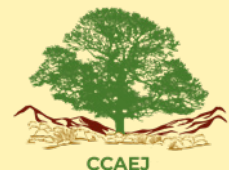


CEJA members and partners at CEJA's 2019 Congreso event  
Source: Brooke Anderson for CEJA

The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) is proud to release our 8th annual *Environmental Justice Scorecard* for the 2020 legislative session. This is the only scorecard in the state to grade California legislators specifically on their support for environmental justice issues — with an emphasis on legislation that impacts low-income communities and communities of color.

## ABOUT THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE (CEJA)

**CEJA** is a statewide, community-led alliance that works to achieve environmental justice by advancing policy solutions. We unite our members' and partners' powerful local organizing in 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.





CEJA members and partners take social media action for health and safety buffer zones  
Source: VISION, CEJA social media

## A TURBULENT AND DISAPPOINTING LEGISLATIVE SESSION IN A PANDEMIC

The 2020 Environmental Justice (EJ) Scorecard reflects a difficult year for California's environmental justice communities. Racial injustice, the COVID-19 pandemic, the economic recession, and increased climate disasters cumulatively created a statewide crisis that most legislators, sadly, failed to adequately address.

The heightened health and safety protections resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic created new barriers for environmental justice communities to effectively advocate for legislative priorities. The Legislature's pandemic emergency recess on March 16, erratic calendar shifts, and limited remote advocacy technologies resulted in an unprecedented and chaotic legislative session. While the typical legislative process presents steep accessibility challenges for many environmental justice communities, pandemic conditions prevented residents from directly engaging with elected officials, and the Legislature's remote public access systems exacerbated this inequity.

In response, CEJA utilized our deep relationships with allies across the state to conduct remote advocacy meetings and testimonials, which

did successfully advance some bills. However, the advocacy limitations during the pandemic underscored how business interests have greater access to and influence over legislators, as well as the need to create more transparent and open systems so that legislators primarily serve and are accountable to constituents.

---

**GROWING RESEARCH SHOWS THAT THE PANDEMIC HAS DISPROPORTIONATELY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES OF COLOR, PEOPLE WITH PRE-EXISTING MEDICAL CONDITIONS, AND COMMUNITIES BURDENED BY POLLUTION. THIS GLARINGLY REVEALS WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES HAVE RAISED FOR YEARS — THAT POLLUTION ENDANGERS THE HEALTH AND LIFE EXPECTANCY OF HIGHLY IMPACTED COMMUNITIES, RENDERING THEM FURTHER VULNERABLE TO CRISES.**



Growing research shows that the pandemic has disproportionately impacted communities of color, people with pre-existing medical conditions, and communities burdened by pollution. This glaringly reveals what environmental justice advocates have raised for years — that pollution endangers the health and life expectancy of highly impacted communities, rendering them further vulnerable to crises. In addition, the lives of both “essential” workers and those who have lost income or health insurance have been jeopardized, rapidly widening systemic racial inequities in health and economic opportunities. This year, therefore, required legislators to lead on environmental and social justice — more so than ever — to protect the rights and well-being of their constituents. The federal government’s increasing attacks on communities of color and environmental health protections only deepened this imperative. Trump’s fascist, white supremacist agenda created a special responsibility for California legislators to wield the powers entrusted to them to counteract national attacks and protect our people.

While the Legislature passed and Governor Gavin Newsom enacted a few important COVID-19 relief measures, they collectively failed to enact meaningful environmental justice bills that countered systemic inequities with systemic

solutions. The failure to advance priority environmental health bills largely resulted from the large cohort of legislators who prioritize corporations over communities, as well as Gov. Newsom’s failure to lead with a consensus path on the most serious environmental issues. We are deeply disappointed that legislation critical to protecting the health and welfare of environmental justice communities failed to move forward. The most troubling illustration is AB 345 (Muratsuchi), a bill that would have established long-overdue health and safety setbacks between oil operations and homes and schools. AB 345 cleared the Assembly, but was not granted a floor vote in the Senate. The other is AB 995 (C. Garcia) — which would have brought long-awaited structural reforms and accountability to the Department of Toxic Substances Control. The Legislature successfully passed AB 995, but it was vetoed by Newsom.

As climate disasters intensify and racial inequities widen, there is an urgent need for environmental justice leadership in California. People of color are the new majority in our state, and will soon be the majority across the nation. Our legislators must meet the moment by passing policies to protect the health, safety, and economic welfare of our state’s most vulnerable communities.



APEN staff join other members of the Third World Resistance at June 3rd #DefundOPD protest  
Source: APEN

## SUMMARY OF BILLS INCLUDED IN CEJA'S 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SCORECARD

1	<p><b>AB 345 (Muratsuchi) — Environmental Justice: Oil and Gas</b></p> <p><b>Position:</b> Support — Priority bill  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CEJA, CRPE, APEN, CCAEJ, CBE, EHC, LCJA, PSR-LA, SCOPE</p> <p>Would require the Natural Resources Agency secretary to establish an environmental justice program, including provisions for community groups to meaningfully participate in rulemaking and other regulatory processes. Would direct the California Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM) to establish a minimum health and safety setback distance between oil and gas operations and communities by July 1, 2022.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Held in Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water</i></p>
2	<p><b>AB 995 (C. Garcia) — Hazardous Waste</b></p> <p><b>Joint Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Bloom, Carrillo, Kalra, Reyes, and Santiago  <b>Principal Co-Authors:</b> Senators Leyva and Wieckowski  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Holden, Mullin, L. Rivas, and Smith, and Senators Gonzalez and Stern  <b>Position:</b> Support — Priority bill  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CEJA, CRPE, PSR-LA</p> <p>Would create a Board of Environmental Safety within the California Environmental Protection Agency to provide policy direction to and oversight of the Department of Toxic Substances Control, restructure the Hazardous Waste Management Account, and make other changes.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Vetoed by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
3	<p><b>AB 1436 (Chiu) — Tenancy: Rental Payment Default</b></p> <p><b>Joint Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Bonta, Friedman, Gonzalez, Limón, Santiago, and Wicks  <b>Principal Co-Author:</b> Senator Jackson  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Bloom, Carrillo, Kalra, Nazarian, Quirk-Silva, L. Rivas, and R. Rivas, and Senators Allen, Durazo, Wieckowski, and Wiener  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CEJA, LCJA, APEN, CCAEJ, CRPE, SCOPE, PSR-LA</p> <p>Would enable small landlords, homeowners, and tenants in financial distress because of the COVID-19 pandemic to temporarily defer their mortgage or rental payment, as well as establish timelines and a framework for full repayment of any amounts deferred.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Held in Senate Rules Committee</i></p>
4	<p><b>AB 2054 (Kamlager) — Emergency Services: Community Response</b></p> <p><b>Principal Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Bonta and Quirk-Silva  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Aguiar-Curry, Carrillo, Chiu, Eggman, Friedman, Gonzalez, Lackey, Quirk, Reyes, R. Rivas, Stone, and Wicks, and Senators Allen, Bradford, Dodd, Durazo, Hertzberg, Jackson, and Mitchell  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> APEN, CBE, LCJA, SCOPE</p> <p>Would create the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems (CRISIS) Act for the purposes of implementing a pilot program to stimulate and support community involvement in emergency response activities that do not require a law enforcement officer.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Vetoed by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
5	<p><b>ACA 5 (Weber) — Government Preferences</b></p> <p><b>Joint Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Gipson, Santiago, and Gonzalez  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Burke, Cooper, Holden, Jones-Sawyer, Kamlager, McCarty, and Stone, and Senators Bradford, Hueso, and Mitchell  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organization Involved:</b> LCJA</p> <p>Placed a ballot measure on the Nov. 3 statewide general election that would permit the use of race, gender, and ethnic diversity as factors in college admissions, government hiring, and government contracting.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>

6	<p><b>SB 423 (Umberg) — November 3, 2020 Statewide General Election</b></p> <p><b>Joint Author:</b> Assemblymember Berman  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CEJA, CCAEJ</p> <p>Authorized changes to in-person voting requirements for the Nov. 3 statewide general election, and required the state and counties to conduct voter education and outreach campaigns.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
7	<p><b>AB 2043 (R. Rivas) — Occupational Safety and Health: Agricultural Employers and Employees: COVID-19 Response</b></p> <p><b>Joint Authors:</b> Assemblymembers E. Garcia and Gonzalez  <b>Principal Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Kalra and Reyes  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Bonta, Eggman, and Gabriel  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CRPE, LCJA</p> <p>Directed the Division of Occupational Safety and Health to disseminate best practices information on COVID-19 infection protection for agricultural employees through a targeted outreach campaign.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
8	<p><b>SB 1257 (Durazo) — Employment Safety Standards: Household Domestic Services</b></p> <p><b>Principal Co-Author:</b> Assemblymember Bonta  <b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Carrillo, Gipson, Gonzalez, Jones-Sawyer, and Kalra  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organization Involved:</b> APEN</p> <p>Would remove the household domestic service worker exemption from California's Occupational Safety and Health Act to cover most domestic workers beginning July 1, 2022.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Vetoed by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
9	<p><b>SB 275 (Pan) — Health Care and Essential Workers: Personal Protective Equipment</b></p> <p><b>Joint Author:</b> Senator Leyva  <b>Co-Author:</b> Assemblymember Gonzalez  <b>Position:</b> Support  <b>CEJA Organization Involved:</b> APEN</p> <p>Required the Department of Public Health to establish a personal protective equipment (PPE) stockpile for health care and essential workers, and require health care employers to establish an inventory sufficient for at least 45 days of surge consumption.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
10	<p><b>AB 3279 (Friedman) — California Environmental Quality Act</b></p> <p><b>Position:</b> Oppose  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CRPE, CBE, CCAEJ, LCJA, PSR-LA, PODER, APEN</p> <p>Would limit a petitioner's right to litigate a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) case by authorizing the public agency to deny a plaintiff's or petitioner's request to prepare the record of proceedings.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Held in Senate Committee on Appropriation</i></p>
11	<p><b>SB 288 (Wiener) — California Environmental Quality Act: Exemptions: Transportation-Related Projects</b></p> <p><b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymembers Friedman and Mathis  <b>Position:</b> Oppose unless amended  <b>CEJA Organizations Involved:</b> CEJA, CRPE, CBE, PSR-LA, PODER</p> <p>Exempted specified toll lane, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>
12	<p><b>AB 3163 (Salas) — Energy: Biomethane: Procurement</b></p> <p><b>Co-Authors:</b> Assemblymember Mathis, and Senators Dahle, Galgiani, and Nielsen  <b>Position:</b> Oppose  <b>CEJA Organization Involved:</b> LCJA</p> <p>Expanded the definition of biomethane to include methane produced from biomass feedstock for the purposes of the California Public Utilities Commission's procurement targets.</p> <p><b>Outcome:</b> <i>Signed into law by Gov. Newsom</i></p>



## HOW DID LEGISLATORS FARE IN OUR 8TH SCORECARD?

Each year, CEJA's EJ Scorecard includes bills that have a significant positive or negative impact on environmental and social justice issues facing California's low-income communities and communities of color. CEJA scored 12 bills, nine we supported and three we opposed. Seven of the nine support bills made it to Newsom's desk, and he signed four. Of the three we opposed, two were passed by the Legislature and signed into law.

In 2020, the number of legislators who achieved an "A" and above shrank by 72 percent compared to 2019. In 2020, only 17 legislators earned 90 percent or higher, significantly down from 61 legislators in 2019. Only six legislators earned a perfect score this year, compared to 30 legislators who scored perfectly in 2019.

**We commend the five legislators who earned perfect scores of 100%:**

- ▶ Assemblymember Tasha Boerner Horvath
- ▶ Assemblymember Eloise Gómez Reyes
- ▶ Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi
- ▶ Assemblymember Mark Stone
- ▶ Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson
- ▶ Senator Henry Stern

**This is the second year in a row that Assemblymember Stone and Senator Jackson earn perfect scores.**

It is dismaying that in a time of crises, so many legislators strayed from environmental and social justice principles and policy solutions. We applaud the upstanding efforts of top-scoring legislators who were unwavering in their commitment. Despite statewide disappointments, this small group of decision-makers recognized the importance of addressing environmental health and justice issues that working-class communities and communities of color faced during the pandemic.



CBE and CCAEJ members at February 2020 launch of Regenerate California campaign  
Source: CCAEJ

## API, BLACK, AND LATINO CAUCUS ANALYSIS

Each year, our EJ Scorecard examines the voting record of the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus, Black Caucus, and Latino Caucus to assess how well their members represent their respective communities on environmental justice issues. Communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by environmental degradation, and in 2020 deep systemic racial inequities were exacerbated by the pandemic. Elected leaders of color represent our increasingly diverse population, and often come from highly

impacted communities themselves. As our movement continues to grow, we need more leaders of color to join us.

Unfortunately, all three caucuses had lower scores in 2020 than in 2019. All legislators of color, especially members of the Black and Latino Caucuses, must do better and align with low-income communities and communities of color toward a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable California.

AVERAGE CAUCUS SCORES BY YEAR						
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Asian Pacific Islander Caucus	96%	95%	85%	89%	99%	81%
Black Caucus	89%	88%	75%	79%	94%	74%
Latino Caucus	92%	94%	79%	78%	88%	77%



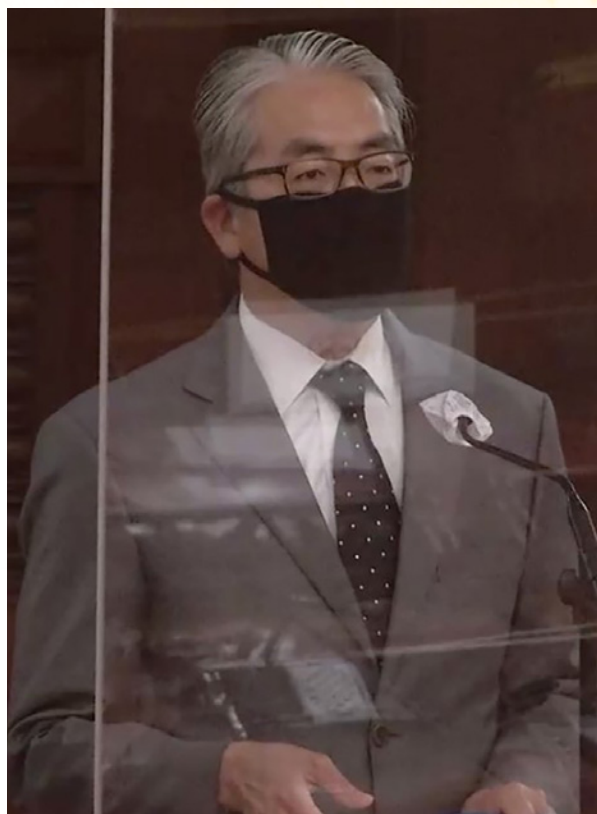
PODER members and staff prepare to deliver mutual aid for COVID-19 relief in the Mission  
Source: PODER



# PRINCIPLES OF ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS

One purpose of this Scorecard is to identify environmental justice champions — legislators who are proactive and meaningful partners for CEJA and use political capital to advance environmental justice principles. These are:

- ▶ **Prioritize and value prevention, human health, and improved quality of life:** Human health and well-being must be given full weight in decisions and not be overlooked in favor of business interests or “cost effectiveness.”
- ▶ **Do no harm:** Decisions must not do further harm to environmental justice communities.
- ▶ **Prioritize environmental justice communities:** Decisions must confront the historic legacy and ongoing disproportionate siting of polluting sources in environmental justice communities, as well as the trend of disinvestment in those neighborhoods. Programs and investments should prioritize environmental justice communities.
- ▶ **Meaningful community engagement:** Decisions must be informed by residents of environmental justice communities, which means decision-makers should be proactive and culturally relevant in soliciting input and ideas on actions to improve health, responsive to community concerns, and transparent in their work to ensure continued engagement and accountability.
- ▶ **Be proactive:** Decision-makers should not wait for communities to approach them with solutions, but proactively reach out to impacted community groups for ideas and feedback.
- ▶ **Take an intersectional approach:** Environmental justice communities are systematically disinvested in economically and disproportionately impacted by patriarchy, racism, and state violence. To be more inclusive, we must partner to advance intersectional solutions that creatively address the multiple crises Californians are facing.



Assemblymember Muratsuchi presents AB 345 in the Senate Natural Resources Committee on Aug. 5, 2020  
Source: NRDC

- ▶ **Be responsive:** Decision-makers have a responsibility to be responsive and accountable to community concerns when addressed. Offices should prioritize follow-up and continued discussion, and should keep working on an issue until it is resolved.
- ▶ **Respect community expertise:** Environmental justice community members are experts in what is happening in their communities and know the solutions that will work best for their neighborhoods. Too often, however, community voices are ignored or invalidated, which prevents or delays effective harm reduction. Decision-makers should turn to community leaders for input and trust what they learn to inform more equitable policy.

## 2020 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS

Environmental Justice Champions do more than just align with CEJA's positions on bills. These individuals go above and beyond to embody our Principles of Environmental Justice. The legislators listed below were selected by CEJA members as legislators who earned the title of "Environmental Justice Champions" in 2020. We look forward to seeing their EJ leadership grow and continuing to work with them in 2021!

- ▶ **Assemblymember Rob Bonta:** Bonta was elected in 2012 to represent the 18th Assembly District, and is the first Filipino-American state legislator in California. He authored AB 1839 to create a California Green New Deal. Bonta has been accessible to and meets with community members and consistently advocates for environmental justice issues.
  - ▶ **Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi:** Muratsuchi was elected in 2012 to represent the 66th Assembly District. He was the author of AB 345, a landmark bill to protect communities living near inherently dangerous oil extraction operations, and fought hard for its passage for the last two years.
  - ▶ **Assemblymember Christina Garcia:** Garcia was elected in 2012 to represent the 58th Assembly District. She authored AB 995, a long-overdue bill to reform the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), and worked closely with frontline communities in successfully passing it through the legislature.
  - ▶ **Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon:** Rendon was elected in 2012 to represent the 63rd Assembly District and has served as speaker since 2016. In 2020, his leadership and support were critical to advancing priority environmental justice legislation — AB 345 and AB 995 — on oil and gas setbacks, and DTSC reform, respectively.
  - ▶ **Assemblymember Robert Rivas:** Rivas was elected in 2018 to represent the 30th Assembly District. Since elected, he has proactively reached out to environmental justice communities and acted on our priorities. Rivas authored AB 2043 to protect farmworkers during the COVID-19 pandemic, which was signed into law by Gov. Newsom.
- consistent voice for tenants and social justice issues, authoring AB 1436 in 2020 to protect tenants affected by COVID-19.

### Honorable Mentions

We also recognize legislators selected by CEJA members for building strong relationships with environmental justice communities and putting forth political capital to advance environmental justice solutions:

- ▶ **Assemblymember David Chiu:** Chiu was elected in 2014 to represent the 17th Assembly District, and serves as chair of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. He has been a

## GOVERNOR NEWSOM'S SECOND YEAR

After an optimistic first year, Governor Newsom's second year saw an unfortunate and significant backslide on environmental justice issues. Seven of nine bills we supported passed on to Newsom, and he signed four. Of the three bills we opposed, two passed and both were signed by the governor. Newsom scored 44 percent — a stark shift from his 100 percent score in 2019.

Outside of the direct action he took on bills that arrived to his desk, Newsom failed to meaningfully support two environmental justice priority bills — AB 345 (Muratsuchi) and AB 995 (C. Garcia) — which

significantly hurt the hard-fought advocacy maintained by frontline community groups, even during a global pandemic. His veto of Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) reform (AB 995) was particularly disappointing. Advocates have worked for years to pass policies to increase accountability at the DTSC, and the Governor's shortsighted veto of the bill due to his desire to include more financial reforms in the policy package is reflective of the administration's failure to work collaboratively with the Legislature and to take an active, productive role in passing difficult policies. We hope that he provides more proactive leadership on much-needed DTSC reform moving forward.





CRPE and CEJA members at an Oakland CalGEM rulemaking.  
Source: Isa Flores-Jones for CEJA

Governor Newsom also signed AB 3163 (Salas), a bill that further fuels the myth that biomethane is a sustainable fuel. The bill allows for costly, ineffective production of methane with no regard for methane leakage, combustion emissions, the need for a long-term infrastructure transition, and harmful local impacts.

As we enter 2021, CEJA urges Governor Newsom to work closely with environmental justice groups to identify and act on necessary, transformative solutions to our climate and economic crises. California has a true opportunity to lead as our nation recovers from this pandemic by thoughtfully addressing environmental and economic inequities. It would be a shame, and the Governor's unfortunate legacy, to let this moment pass us by.

## SETTING THE STAGE FOR 2021

The COVID-19 pandemic has laid bare our deepest inequities, but has also presented a rare opportunity to make significant progress on long-standing challenges in our communities. The Legislature's and Governor's actions and inaction have never been more consequential. CEJA urges Governor Newsom's administration and the Legislature to be bold and visionary — we are ready to help move California forward.

### Department of Toxic Substances Control

The passage of AB 995 (C. Garcia) was an important first step in reforming the DTSC,

but was unfortunately vetoed by Gov. Newsom. The DTSC's many years of regulatory failures and mismanagement are widely known and acknowledged, yet it is the only permitting and enforcement agency at the California Environmental Protection Agency that does not have an oversight board. DTSC's funding for its permitting and cleanup programs are in structural deficit, leading to potential cuts to activities essential to protect community health and safety. Environmental justice communities have waited far too long for needed financial and program reforms at the DTSC, and CEJA expects the Legislature and governor to work together with frontline communities on meaningful departmental change in 2021.

### Public Health and Safety Protections from Oil Drilling

AB 345 (Muratsuchi) would have required CalGEM to establish health and safety buffer zones between oil operations and communities. Despite months of organizing, ample scientific research establishing the need for action, and a broad coalition of supporters, AB 345 failed to pass the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water after three Democratic senators refused to support the bill. CEJA is now focused on the Department of Conservation's ongoing public health rulemaking. CEJA and our broad coalition of supporters will keep up the fight for critical public health and safety protections through regulatory, executive, and legislative opportunities.

## Moving Toward Transformative California Climate Crisis Policies that Integrate Air Quality and GHGs

CEJA holds climate justice at the core of climate action, with people-centered solutions as a key tenet. We have therefore consistently opposed the use of market mechanisms like cap-and-trade, which commodifies and imparts a property right on the emission of greenhouse gases — the source of our climate crisis. In May 2020 we saw the auctions bottom out in response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, and joined with a coalition of voices demanding the California Air Resources Board open a new rulemaking to reexamine the cap-and-trade regulation. In response, California Secretary for Environmental Protection Jared Blumenfeld wrote a letter to the Legislature recognizing the limitations of the program and committing to working with the California Air Resources Board to examine the role of cap-and-trade in the 2022 Scoping Plan process. Meanwhile, lack of revenue coming into the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund meant no discretionary programs under the California Climate Investments initiative received funding this year. CEJA continues to engage the Legislature and the administration on carving a pathway to our 2030 climate goals that focuses on direct emission reductions and critical investments to support environmental and economic resiliency in environmental justice communities.

## Protecting CEQA

This legislative cycle saw another round of bills attacking the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under the guise of streamlining. CEQA “streamlining” eliminates both environmental review processes critical for low-income residents and communities of color, as well as important opportunities for robust public engagement before potentially harmful projects move forward. Although we believe improving CEQA is necessary, CEJA will continue to work with our allies to oppose bills that undermine the integrity of CEQA. We will also engage in conversations that improve local planning, land use, housing, and public engagement processes by centering the voices of low-income and environmental justice communities.

## Just Recovery from COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted communities throughout California, particularly those of Black, indigenous, and people of color. The pandemic has also left many Californians without jobs, overwhelmed with childcare and family needs, and struggling to keep up with rent, mortgage, and utility payments. While attempts were made to rectify the situation, renters are still burdened with the looming March 1 deadline when they must pay in full, and utility ratepayers continue to face the risk of shutoffs if they cannot pay soon. As the pandemic rages on, we know that this will be impossible for many. In June 2020, Newsom took the positive step to establish a Task Force on Business and Jobs Recovery, but the membership did not include environmental justice advocates or frontline community leaders, and has not directly resulted in meaningful support for these communities. We hope to work with the Legislature and governor’s office in 2021, alongside tenant organizers and others, on a more equitable and long-term solution to meet the ongoing needs of low-income renters in particular.

## Access to Decision-Making

The Legislature’s removal of participation for committee meetings and floor votes (in an effort to slow the spread of COVID-19) unfortunately served to obstruct meaningful community engagement. Community leaders who had limited Internet access or who did not speak English as a first language were almost completely excluded from participating in legislative deliberations, and technology complications during key hearings prevented community members from testifying. Further, reports emerged that some lobbyists were granted access to the Capitol for meetings with legislators — a benefit that was not extended to environmental justice advocates. In 2021, CEJA hopes the Legislature will take steps to engage with environmental justice organizations, and ensure community leaders are able to meaningfully and equitably participate in the legislative process.



## SCORECARD METHODOLOGY

The 2020 Scorecard considers every vote that was taken on a bill as it moved through the legislative process, and not just the final vote. Percentages were rounded to the nearest whole number, and small bonuses were granted if a legislator was an author or co-author of a bill. Legislators with scores of more than 100 percent due to positive votes and bill authorship are indicated as 100%+.

CEJA's EJ Scorecard is an attempt to evaluate — comprehensively and fairly — every California legislator and their performance on environmental justice issues. Votes alone, however, cannot capture the entirety of a representative's contribution (or disruption) to the environmental justice movement. **To that end, this year we included Community Points in our evaluation.** Each of CEJA's 10 member and partner organizations were given the opportunity to award up to three bonus points to legislators who significantly contributed to California's environmental justice movement by upholding our Environmental Justice Principles. The member and partner organizations were also allowed to subtract up to three points from legislators who showed a disappointing lack of commitment to those principles. Examples of ways legislators showed a commitment to these principles include (but are not limited to) engaging in environmental justice-focused town halls, entering into a respectful dialogue with environmental justice community leaders, trusting local expertise, and attending tours of environmental justice communities. Examples of ways legislators did not show a commitment to these principles, and for which they earned negative Community Points, include (but are not limited to) being inaccessible to community members, sponsoring or strongly supporting legislation that CEJA opposed, or taking no action when their constituents faced strong injustices.

While voting records still compose the overwhelming weight of the scores, we hope that Community Points serve as a reminder that when it comes to environmental justice, a representative's job goes well beyond casting votes.



February 2020 launch of Regenerate California campaign  
Source: Isa Flores-Jones for CEJA

## SCORECARD KEY

- ✓ **Votes aligned with CEJA's position**
- ✗ **Votes or abstentions contradicted CEJA's position**
- **Votes or abstentions sometimes aligned with and sometimes contradicted CEJA's position**
- Legislator was excused on the day of the vote or never got the opportunity to vote on the bill**
- B Member of Black Caucus**
- L Member of Latino Caucus**
- API Member of Asian Pacific Islander Caucus**

SENATORS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Allen, Ben (D-26)	A-	93%	+1		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓
Archuleta, Bob (D-32)	C+	78%		L		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Atkins, Toni (D-39)	B-	80%	+2			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Bates, Pat (R-36)	F	20%				✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✓	✗
Beall, Jim (D-15)	C+	78%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Borgeas, Andreas (R-08)	F	9%			✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗
Bradford, Steve (D-35)	B-	81%	-1	B		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Caballero, Anna (D-12)	D+	69%	-1	L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Chang, Ling Ling (R-29)	F	44%				✗		✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗
Dahle, Brian (R-01)	F	10%				✗		✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗		✗	✗
Dodd, Bill (D-03)	C+	79%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Durazo, Maria Elena (D-24)	B	85%	+2	L		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Galgiani, Cathleen (D-05)	C+	77%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Glazer, Steve (D-07)	F	56%				✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗
Gonzalez, Lena (D-33)	A-	91%		L		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓
Grove, Shannon (R-16)	F	11%				✗		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗
Hertzberg, Bob (D-18)	D+	69%	-3		✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Hill, Jerry (D-13)	C+	78%				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓		✗	✗
Hueso, Ben (D-40)	D+	68%	-3	L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Hurtado, Melissa (D-14)	C+	78%		L		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗



SENATORS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Jackson, Hannah-Beth (D-19)	A+	100%+	+1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Jones, Brian (R-38)	F	20%			✗	✗	✗	○	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✓	○
Leyva, Connie (D-20)	B+	87%				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	○
McGuire, Mike (D-02)	C+	78%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Melendez, Melissa (R-28)	F	23%			✗	✗	✗	○	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗		✓	✗
Mitchell, Holly (D-30)	A-	90%		B		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓
Monning, Bill (D-17)	B-	82%			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Moorlach, John (R-37)	F	33%				✗		✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗		✓	✗
Morrell, Mike (R-23)	F	0%				✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✗	✗
Nielsen, Jim (R-04)	F	10%				✗		✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗		✓	✗
Pan, Richard (D-06)	C+	79%		API		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Portantino, Anthony (D-25)	B-	80%				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Roth, Richard (D-31)	C+	79%	+1			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Rubio, Susan (D-22)	C+	78%		L		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Skinner, Nancy (D-09)	C+	78%				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✗
Stern, Henry (D-27)	A+	100%+	+1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
Umberg, Tom (D-34)	B-	82%				✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓
Wieckowski, Bob (D-10)	B+	88%				○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✗
Wiener, Scott (D-11)	B	86%	-3			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✗	✓
Wilk, Scott (R-21)	F	56%				✗		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓		✗	✗

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Aguiar-Curry, Cecilia (D-04)	B+	87%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗
Arambula, Joaquin (D-31)	C	73%		L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗
Bauer-Kahan, Rebecca (D-16)	B	83%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✗	○	✓
Berman, Marc (D-24)	B	84%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Bigelow, Frank (R-05)	F	17%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	○	✗	✗	✗	○	✗
Bloom, Richard (D-50)	B	84%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Boerner Horvath, Tasha (D-76)	A+	100%+			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bonta, Rob (D-18)	A	95%		API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Brough, Bill (R-73)	F	18%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Burke, Autumn (D-62)	D	64%		B	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Calderon, Ian (D-57)	C	73%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Carrillo, Wendy (D-51)	D+	68%		L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Cervantes, Sabrina (D-60)	F	57%	+1	L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chau, Ed (D-49)	D	64%		API	✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chen, Phillip (R-55)	F	27%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chiu, David (D-17)	A-	90%	+6	API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Choi, Steven (R-68)	F	18%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Chu, Kansen (D-25)	B-	80%		API	✓	✓		✓	✗		✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Cooley, Ken (D-08)	D	64%			✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Cooper, Jim (D-09)	D-	60%		B	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗



ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Cunningham, Jordan (R-35)	F	36%			✖	✓		✓	✖	✖	○	✖	✓	✖	○	✖
Dahle, Megan (R-01)	F	12%			✖	✖		✓	✖	✖	○	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖
Daly, Tom (D-69)	F	50%			✖	✓		✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✖	✖	✖	✖
Diep, Tyler (R-72)	F	56%			✖	✓		✓	✖	✓	✓	○	✓	○	✖	✖
Eggman, Susan Talamantes (D-13)	C+	78%		L	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	○	✖
Flora, Heath (R-12)	F	17%			✖	✖		✓	✖	✖	✖	○	○	✖	✖	✖
Fong, Vince (R-34)	F	9%			✖	✖		✓	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖	✖
Frazier, Jim (D-11)	F	50%			✖			✓	✓		✓			✖		✖
Friedman, Laura (D-43)	C+	78%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	○
Gabriel, Jesse (D-45)	B	84%	+1		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✓
Gallagher, James (R-03)	F	26%			✖	✖		✓	✖	○	○	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖
Garcia, Cristina (D-58)	A	93%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓	✓
Garcia, Eduardo (D-56)	C	75%	+1	L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖
Gipson, Mike (D-64)	D	65%		B	✖	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖
Gloria, Todd (D-78)	B-	82%		API, L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✓
Gonzalez, Lorena (D-80)	A	97%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✓
Gray, Adam (D-21)	F	36%			✖	✓		✓	✓	✖	✖	✖	✓	✖	✖	✖
Grayson, Tim (D-14)	F	59%			✖	✓		✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖
Holden, Chris (D-41)	C	74%		B	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖
Irwin, Jacqui (D-44)	C	73%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✖	✖	✖

ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Jones-Sawyer, Reggie (D-59)	C	74%		B	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Kalra, Ash (D-27)	A	94%		API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Kamlager, Sydney (D-54)	A	93%		B	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓
Kiley, Kevin (R-06)	F	18%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Lackey, Tom (R-36)	F	33%			✗	✗		✓	✓	✗	○	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗
Levine, Marc (D-10)	C	73%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Limón, Monique (D-37)	A	96%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	○	✓	✓
Low, Evan (D-28)	D	64%		API	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Maienschein, Brian (D-77)	C	75%			○	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Mathis, Devon (R-26)	F	17%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	○	✗	○	✗	✗	✗
Mayes, Chad (NPP-42)	F	47%			✗	✗		✓	✓	○	○	✗	✓	✗	✗	✓
McCarty, Kevin (D-07)	C	73%		B	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Medina, Jose (D-61)	C	74%	+1	L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Mullin, Kevin (D-22)	C	73%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Muratsuchi, Al (D-66)	A+	100%+	+2	API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nazarian, Adrin (D-46)	F	55%		API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
Obernalte, Jay (R-33)	F	9%			✗	✗		○	✗	✗	○	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
O'Donnell, Patrick (D-70)	D	64%			✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Patterson, Jim (R-23)	F	18%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗
Petrie-Norris, Cottie (D-74)	D-	61%			○	✓		✓	○	✓	○	✓	○	✗	✗	○



ASSEMBLYMEMBERS	GRADE	SCORE	COMMUNITY POINTS	ETHNIC CAUCUS	SUPPORT									OPPOSE		
					AB 345	AB 995	AB 1436	AB 2054	ACA 5	SB 423	AB 2043	SB 1257	SB 275	AB 3279	SB 288	AB 3163
Quirk, Bill (D-20)	C+	78%			✓	✓		✓	✗	✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Quirk-Silva, Sharon (D-65)	D-	61%		L	✗	✓		✓	○	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Ramos, James (D-40)	D	63%	-1	L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Rendon, Anthony (D-63)	C-	70%		L		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Reyes, Eloise Gómez (D-47)	A+	100%+		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rivas, Luz (D-39)	A-	92%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Rivas, Robert (D-30)	B	83%	+2	L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	○
Rodriguez, Freddie (D-52)	D	64%		L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Rubio, Blanca (D-48)	D	64%		L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Salas, Rudy (D-32)	D	63%		L	✗	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Santiago, Miguel (D-53)	C+	77%		L	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Smith, Christy (D-38)	B	83%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓
Stone, Mark (D-29)	A+	100%+			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ting, Phil (D-19)	A-	91%		API	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓
Voepel, Randy (R-71)	F	13%			✗			✓	○	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
Waldron, Marie (R-75)	F	32%			✗	✗		✓	✗	✗	○	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Weber, Shirley (D-79)	C	75%	+1	B	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗
Wicks, Buffy (D-15)	B	86%			✓	✓		○	✓		✓		✓	✗	✓	✓
Wood, Jim (D-02)	B-	82%			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓



APEN staff at November Count Every Vote Rally  
Source: Source: Denny Khamphanthong for APEN

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The CEJA Scorecard team — lead authors Katie Valenzuela, Cassie Gardener Manjikian, and Gladys Limón, and contributing authors Isa Flores-Jones and Brian Golden — thank our members and partners for their generous time and contributions to this Scorecard. In particular, we are grateful to Sylvia Chi, Asian Pacific Environmental Network; Ingrid Brostrom, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment; Julia Jordan and Phoebe Seaton, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability; and Michael Rincon, Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles.

We are grateful to the Resources Legacy Fund for its generous support that made this Scorecard possible.

**Design and layout:** Design Action Collective

**Copy editor:** Lawrence Sanfilippo

**Cover photos (from top left to right):**

Image 1: PODER organizers distribute food. Image 2: CCAEJ members distribute food as part of 2020 mutual aid efforts. Image 3: CBE members speak at the Regenerate Campaign launch in Sacramento in early 2020. Image 4 and Image 5: PODER members prepare for food distribution.







## Contact Us

### California Environmental Justice Alliance

1107 9th Street, Suite 901  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[ceja@caleja.org](mailto:ceja@caleja.org)

[www.caleja.org](http://www.caleja.org)

---

## CEJA MEMBERS & PARTNERS

