

AB 1405 Fact Sheet

California Global Warming Solutions Act: Community Benefits Fund 2010

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Examples of Projects that Can be Supported by AB 1405 Funds:

- [1] Increase water and energy efficiency through retrofitting or weatherizing activities.
- [2] Distributed generation systems that utilize locally available renewable energy sources.
- [3] Initiate or enhance public mass transit, including fare subsidies to commuters.
- [4] Low-income, public mass transit-oriented housing development.

What is AB 1405?

AB 1405 will establish a Community Benefits Fund from a mandatory minimum investment of 30% of revenues received from the implementation of AB 32. The funds shall be used solely in the most impacted and disadvantaged communities in California to accelerate greenhouse gas emission reductions or mitigate direct health impacts of climate change in those communities. **Call your Senators and urge them to support AB 1405 and the Community Benefits Fund.** Go to www.sen.ca.gov to find your Senator's information.



AB 1405 Co-sponsors: Coalition for Clean Air, California State NAACP, Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment, and The Greenlining Institute



The Problem

The dialogue on adaptation to climate change generally excludes poor people. Yet, it is the **poorest people who are hardest hit by climate change.**

Across California, low-income communities of color remain targets for toxic dumping and pollution. Latino communities in the Mission and Excelsior Districts suffer respiratory illness due to massive development. In Richmond, the health of African American, Latino, and Laotian residents is harmed by the huge Chevron oil refinery (the largest greenhouse gas emitter in the state).

There are over 200 pollution-producing businesses impacting residents of the Hegenberger Corridor. From the most polluted air basins in the San Joaquin Valley to the sick Latino residents of Los Angeles; from the expanding rail yards in Riverside to increasing particulate matter in San Diego, communities of color suffer the health risks of pollution.

In adopting the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (AB 32), the State made a promise to ensure that low-income and minority communities are protected from and strengthened by efforts to tackle California's climate crisis. However, the California Air Resources Board has yet to fulfill this promise.

AB 1405 – Precedent Setting

There are two major areas that AB 1405 sets a positive precedent for investing in our communities:

(1) Sets a minimum investment threshold. AB 1405 boldly states that **investing in our communities** is a definite part of the plan.

(2) Requires the State to develop a methodology for **identifying our poorest and most polluted communities.** This methodology will have applicability across other areas of work (i.e. where renewable energy investments should be cited, where we want to direct air district resources for various programs).



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