



AB 2419 – CA Justice40 Act

SUMMARY

This bill ensures that federal climate and infrastructure investments will advance California’s goals to promote equity, environmental justice, and a sustainable economy through targeted investments to disadvantaged and low-income communities. The bill also establishes the Justice40 Oversight Committee to track the use of federal funds and make recommendations for infrastructure projects in disadvantaged and low-income communities in California.

BACKGROUND

The Justice40 Initiative is a federal goal to deliver 40% of the benefits of climate and infrastructure investments to disadvantaged communities. On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and issued an Executive Order stating that the IIJA should prioritize “investing public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative.” The IIJA will deliver over \$44 billion to the State of California for infrastructure projects. On September 1, 2021, Governor Newsom joined a group of 10 governors to submit a letter to Congressional leaders requesting that “any infrastructure package ensure 40 percent of the benefits of climate and clean infrastructure investments are directed to disadvantaged communities and invests in rural communities and communities impacted by the market-based transition to clean energy.”

PROBLEM

Throughout the history of the United States, many infrastructure policies and investments have grown inequities in housing, education, economic opportunity, health, and environmental pollution. These inequities lock millions of Californian’s out of prosperity and opportunity, nowhere more so than in low-income communities of color. California’s highway system was built in ways that broke up Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities, forcing the destruction of homes and displacing residents. We continue to live with those inequities today. More than 370,000 Californians have contaminated drinking water, and unsafe drinking water disproportionately impacts communities of color. Low-income communities of color are exposed to substantially more air pollution from cars, trucks and buses than other demographic groups in California,

contributing to higher rates of asthma, heart disease, and other health burdens.

While the Justice40 Initiative is a promising federal goal, states will ultimately determine if these investments are implemented equitably. Without deliberate attention to ensure high-road outcomes, these investments run the risk of repeating inequitable infrastructure development and inadvertently funding a race-to-the-bottom approach that hurts vulnerable Californians and undermines our broader infrastructure goals.

SOLUTION

This is a historic moment to seize the opportunities provided by the IIJA and federal Justice40 Initiative to reverse inequities and build a new vision of infrastructure as the foundation for an inclusive society.

The committee established by this bill commits California to the Justice40 Initiative by reviewing projects to ensure at least 40% of federal climate, clean energy and infrastructure funds benefit disadvantaged communities, and an additional 10% of funds benefit low-income communities and households. It requires all investments with covered federal funds uphold skilled and trained labor standards and avoid substantial burdens to disadvantaged and low-income communities.

The Justice40 Oversight Committee will unite our State and community leaders to identify infrastructure deficiencies in disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout the state, recommend infrastructure projects for federal funding, and track the use of these funds as agencies distribute them.

SUPPORT

- California Green New Deal Coalition (co-sponsor)
- APEN (co-sponsor)
- SCOPE LA (co-sponsor)
- The Greenlining Institute (co-sponsor)
- PODER
- Richmond Our Power Coalition
- Idle No More SF Bay
- ClimatePlan
- Legislative Black Caucus
- Central Valley Partnership
- Black Women for Wellness
- Vote Solar



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California Environmental Voters
 Communities for a Better Environment
 Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
 Pacoima Beautiful
 Move LA
 Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment
 Esperanza Community Housing Corporation
 Public Advocates Inc.
 Rising Sun Center for Opportunity
 Climate Equity Policy Center
 Coalition for Clean Air
 Del Paso Heights Growers' Alliance
 Community Water Center
 Emerald Cities Collaborative
 San Diego 350
 Building the California Dream Alliance
 NextGen California
 SFV Climate Reality Project
 CEJA Action
 Romero Institute
 Sierra Club California
 Courage California
 350 Bay Area Action
 Del Paso Heights' Growers Alliance
 Union of Concerned Scientists
 Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
 Natural Resources Defense Council
 San Diego Green New Deal Alliance
 Indivisible CA Green Team
 Little Manila Rising
 Los Angeles Alliance for a New Economy
 I am Green, Inc.
 Let's Green CA!
 UPTe Local 9
 350 Ventura County Climate Hub
 350 Southland Legislative Alliance
 350 South Bay Los Angeles
 350 Conejo/ San Fernando Valley
 350 Bay Area Action
 Advancement Project California
 Environmental Defense Fund
 Liberty Hill Foundation
 Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy
 California Calls
 Climate Action Campaign

Center for Environmental Health
 Green For All
 Jobs with Justice San Francisco
 PolicyLink
 Active San Gabriel Valley
 The Climate Center
 Center for Climate Change and Health
 California Calls
 Climate Equity Policy Center
 Cloverdale Indivisible
 Grid Alternatives
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 Indivisible Marin
 Indivisible Media City Burbank
 Indivisible Mendocino
 Indivisible Riverside
 Indivisible Sacramento
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 Indivisible Sonoma County
 Indivisible South Bay LA
 Indivisible Stanislaus
 Indivisible Ventura
 LA Waterkeeper
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