

# Principles for Implementing SB 535 (de León) to Benefit Disadvantaged Communities

*Submitted on behalf of all endorsing organizations listed on the reverse*

Delivering benefits to disadvantaged communities in the course of reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions has been a consistent theme of the Legislature's GHG reduction efforts since the adoption of AB 32. Now, SB 535 has deepened the State's commitment to Environmental Justice communities by making it a core goal in the allocation of Cap and Trade revenues.

Cal/EPA must identify disadvantaged communities "based on geographic, socioeconomic, public health, and environmental hazard criteria," and ARB must ensure that at least 25% of auction revenues are set aside for investments in "projects that provide benefits to [these disadvantaged] communities," with at least 10% in projects "located within" these communities.

**The following principles will help ensure that the Legislature's goals are achieved:**

- 1. Make the process inclusive, transparent and accountable.** ARB should ensure transparency, accountability and the robust public participation of disadvantaged communities in the process of developing and implementing an investment plan:
  - Public participation of disadvantaged communities – a core principle of Environmental Justice – must be integrated into the implementation of SB 535, at both the state and regional/local level.
  - Proposed investments of SB 535 funds should be transparently itemized as falling under the 25 percent or 10 percent category.
  - All agencies (including local and regional agencies) responsible for carrying out projects funded with SB 535 funds should be held accountable to ensure that promised benefits are delivered, measured and reported.
- 2. Invest in High Priority Needs.** Disadvantaged communities have needs that are distinct from those of the general public; for instance, they are subject to well-documented disparities in health outcomes. Disadvantaged communities benefit when their distinctive needs are met. The benefits of each investment made with SB 535 funds should specifically address high priority needs of disadvantaged communities. ARB should ensure that projects deliver significant benefits by meeting priority needs well. Eventually, ARB should implement metrics to quantify the co-benefits to disadvantaged communities (e.g., improvements in housing, transit, job and public health outcomes) of GHG-reducing projects. Setting performance measures will make the process more transparent while also facilitating DOF reporting on the outcomes of these investments.
- 3. Benefits Must Outweigh Burdens.** There are many projects that, while considered beneficial to some, generate harmful impacts that are disproportionately concentrated in disadvantaged communities. The benefits of SB 535 investments on disadvantaged communities must significantly outweigh the burdens that the projects may impose on those communities.

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## Endorsing organizations (as of March 8, 2013):

Asian and Pacific Islanders California Action Network (APIsCAN)	Greenlining Institute
Allen Temple Baptist Church	Housing California
Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN)	Kennedy Commission
Asian Immigrant Women Advocates	Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
Asian Neighborhood Design	Marin Grassroots
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)	Nail Salon Women Greening Their Jobs and the Environment
Bay Area Healthy 880 Communities	New Voices Are Rising Project (of the Rose Foundation for Communities and the Environment)
Bay Localize	North Bay Organizing Project
Breakthrough Communities	People's Community Organization for Reform and Empowerment (People's CORE)
CA ReLeaf	Public Advocates Inc.
California Housing Partnership Corporation (CHPC)	Public Interest Law Project / California Affordable Housing Law Project
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation	Regional Asthma Management & Prevention (RAMP)
California Rural Legal Assistance, Inc.	Sacramento Housing Alliance (SHA)
California WALKS	Safe Routes to School National Partnership
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Stockton	Sierra Club California
Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods	The City Project
Chicana/Latina Foundation	TransForm
Coalition for Clean Air	Unitarian
East Bay Housing Organizations (EBHO)	Universalist Legislative Ministry California (UULMCA)
El Concilio of San Mateo County	Urban Habitat
EndOil / Communities for Clean Ports	WALKSacramento
Fresno Metro Ministries	Western Center on Law and Poverty
Environmental Justice Task Force of A3PCON	
Genesis	
Great Leap	
Green for All	