

# CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ALLIANCE

Asian Pacific Environmental Network • Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice • Center on Race, Poverty & the Environment  
Communities for a Better Environment • Environmental Health Coalition • People Organizing to Demand Environmental & Economic Rights  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HIGHLY ANTICIPATED RENEWABLE ENERGY BILL SIGNED INTO LAW**

(Sacramento, CA) – Governor Jerry Brown today signed into law a renewable energy resources bill that will improve the health of Californians. The “Renewable Portfolio Standard” bill (SBX1 2), authored by Senator Joe Simitian, requires 33 percent of electricity sold in the state come from renewable energy by 2020. With this new law, California sets the most aggressive target for lowering pollution relative to any other state.

According to the Air Resources Board, air pollution is responsible for 9,000 premature deaths in California each year as a result of fine particulate pollution. Pollution hits low-income and communities of color first and worst. This new law will significantly reduce the impacts on these communities.

The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA) has been fighting for “distributed generation”— local renewable projects of 20 megawatts or less that are close to where energy is consumed and that don’t require long-distance electric power transmission lines. As a result of CEJA’s efforts, the renewable energy law now includes strict penalties for utilities if they don’t meet certain distributed generation requirements. The law also makes it harder to build unnecessary transmission lines. Transmission is built only when proven necessary, and transmission upgrades are required before building entirely new transmission lines

“This is a great step forward if we site a significant amount of these renewables locally in underemployed and disadvantaged communities,” said Nicole Capretz, director of Environmental Health Coalition’s Green Energy/Green Jobs Campaign and member of CEJA. “We can put solar on rooftops, schools, and in parking lots so that we open doors to clean energy careers for working class communities of color and bring jobs, health and wealth to those urban centers,” Capretz said.

Bill Gallegos, director of Communities for a Better Environment and also member of the California Environmental Justice Alliance called the law a step forward for communities that have long suffered from our state's dirty air. "Now the real work begins of ensuring this law actually creates green jobs throughout the state and gets us off the fossil fuel industry," he said.

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