January 5, 2022

Assemblymember Luz Rivas
Chair, Assembly Natural Resources Committee
California State Capitol
Room 8620
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 1001 (C. Garcia) – SUPPORT IN CONCEPT

Dear Chair Rivas:

The Climate Center strongly supports the intent behind AB 1001 (C. Garcia), which will see the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) better align with environmental justice principles at the state and local levels.

Environmental justice communities have long borne the negative impacts associated with development in the state, ranging from air pollution associated with power generation to water contamination from industrial facilities. The enactment of CEQA was a landmark event and provided a strong guard against many projects that would have had a deleterious effect on the environment. The Act, however, is in need of updating as it was crafted in a time when the needs of disadvantaged communities were not prioritized.

By requiring that agencies act consistently with the principles of environmental justice, AB 1001 would take a key step toward systematically ensuring that these communities will not be overlooked moving forward.

Given the ongoing disproportionate impacts to environmental justice communities, it is critical that the state, as well as local jurisdictions charged with CEQA implementation, make systematic changes that will safeguard these communities. AB 1001 will ensure that these agencies move in that direction. For these reasons, The Climate Center supports AB 1001 in concept and looks forward to seeing the bill develop further.

Sincerely,

Ellie M. Cohen
Chief Executive Officer
The Climate Center