



Our mission

Deliver rapid greenhouse gas reductions at scale, starting in California.

Board of Directors

Susan Thomas, Chair
Efren Carrillo, Immediate Past Chair
Venise Curry, MD, Vice Chair
Larry Robinson, Secretary
Lokelani Devone, Attorney
Jean S. Fraser
Elliot Hinds
Susan Longville
Mary Luévano
Terea Macomber, MBA
Jim McGreen
Carl Mears, PhD
Aaron Schreiber-Stainthorp

Executive Staff

Ellie Cohen, Chief Executive Officer
Lois Downy, Chief Financial Officer
Jeri Howland, Director of Philanthropy
Barry Vesser, Chief Operations Officer

Strategic Advisors

Peter Barnes, Co-founder, Working Assets
Rick Brown, TerraVerde Renewable Partners
Jeff Byron, Former CA Energy Commissioner
Joe Como, Former Director, CA Office of Ratepayer Advocates
Ann Hancock, Chief Strategist & Co-Founder, The Climate Center
Hunter Lovins, President, Natural Capitalism Solutions

Science & Technical Advisors

Fred Euphrat, PhD
Daniel M. Kammen, PhD
Lorenzo Kristov, PhD
Alexandra von Meier, PhD
Edward C. Myers, M.S.Ch.E.
Greg Thomson, Green Solutions & Technologies
Mathis Wackernagel, PhD
Ken Wells, E.I.T.
Ai-Chu Wu, PhD

Contact

www.theclimatecenter.org
1275 4th Street #191
Santa Rosa, CA 95404
707-525-1665

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