



Date: January 10, 2021

To: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

From: California Environmental Justice League

Subject: SUPPORT – AB 51 (Quirk), as introduced on December 7, 2020

The California Environmental Justice League (CEJL) is pleased to SUPPORT AB 51 (Quirk), which would require the Strategic Growth Council and specified state agencies to establish guidelines for forming regional climate adaptation planning groups and implementation plans.

Local governments play a critical role in climate change. Every day, local planning agencies, water districts and other authorities are making decisions that best serve the needs of their specific geographies, economics, and communities. However, climate change extends beyond jurisdictional borders and needs to be considered on a macro level.

Assembly Bill 51 would:

- Improve collaboration among local jurisdictions to ensure that local planning policies are considered and implemented in ways that advance the region's overall climate adaptation goals.
- Provide a more comprehensive and coordinated approach for state investment in climate adaptation preparedness.
- Increase the effectiveness of resiliency planning and recovery by encouraging community organizations and private sector involvement.
- Establish a stable structure for facilitating regional mutual-aid agreements.

In the last few years, Californians have suffered much and lost many to devastating wildfires. We can't prevent disasters, but we can plan for them. AB 51 provides for a cohesive coordinated framework that brings together state, regional and local expertise to prepare us today for tomorrow's challenges.

For these reasons and more, we support AB 51.

cc: The Honorable Bill Quirk

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