



Date: February 26, 2021

To: Members, Assembly Natural Resources Committee

From: California Environmental Justice League

Subject: SUPPORT AB 284 (R. Rivas), as introduced on January 21, 2021

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The California Environmental Justice League (EJL) is pleased to support AB 284, which would require state agencies to develop a plan for utilizing agricultural land, forests, wildlife habitat, etc., to sequester carbon and reduce GHG emissions. The plan would also integrate opportunities for increasing social and economic benefits, including protecting vulnerable communities from climate change.

California's agricultural regions are home to some of our largest disadvantaged populations. Farming communities are often exposed to more pollutants in the air and water yet have less available access to health care, and local government resources to address these issues can be constrained. We need to prioritize our rural communities.

AB 284 would:

- Ensure appropriate emphasis on and support of our most vulnerable and disadvantaged communities in their efforts to combat climate change.
- Provide opportunities for improving public health, environmental quality, job creation and other socio-economic considerations.
- Help protect our ethnic minorities who are large contributors to our food supply and agricultural production, but who are often overlooked.
- Extend the purview of CARB's scoping plan to explore additional options for meeting the state's emission reduction targets. This measure is timely, as the State Auditor's report earlier this week (<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2020-114/summary.html>) essentially warned that we may be in danger of falling short of our climate change targets.

For these and other reasons, we support this legislation.

Cc: The Honorable Robert Rivas