ENVIRONMENTAL
JUSTICE LEAGUE

Date: May 3, 2021

To: Assembly Appropriations Committee

From: California Environmental Justice League

Subject: SUPPORT for AB 1395 (Muratsuchi), as amended on April 20, 2021

The California Environmental Justice League (CEJL) is pleased to SUPPORT AB 1395, which would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to work with designated state agencies to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045 through:

- 90 percent of gross greenhouse gas emissions targets achieved only through emission reductions; and
- 10 percent of gross greenhouse gas emission reductions accomplished through carbon dioxide removal strategies.

In working toward these goals, state agencies are required to support the health and economic resiliency of lower-income and disadvantaged communities.

California has set ambitious goals for carbon emissions and renewable energy, but lower-income and ethnic communities are often overlooked. According to recent studies, African Americans and Latinos are exposed to 40 percent more particulate matter pollution than white Californians, and households earning less than $20,000 a year or those without vehicles suffer from 20 percent more particulate matter inhalation than the state average. Exposure to particulate matter is linked to heart and lung disease, asthma, and premature death.

To combat this, we believe the state must implement strategies that directly reduce gross emissions while supporting carbon removal. A strategy focused primarily on gross emissions reductions is significantly more effective at reversing particulate matter pollution that plagues minority and disadvantaged communities.

Achieving carbon neutrality would not only improve health outcomes, but also generate cost savings due to lower medical expenses.

For these and other reasons, we support this legislation.

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