



Date: May 3, 2021

To: Members, Senate Appropriations Committee

From: California Environmental Justice League

Subject: SUPPORT for 27 (Skinner), as amended on April 19, 2021

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The California Environmental Justice League (CEJL) is pleased to SUPPORT SB 27, which would require the Natural Resources Agency to increase use of natural and working lands-based carbon sequestration for advancing the state's climate goals. The measure also requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to establish a registry for tracking carbon sequestration entities who are seeking or have received public funding and their progress.

Earlier this year, the State Auditor released her assessment of the California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) emission reduction program (<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/reports/2020-114/summary.html>), finding that "CARB has not done enough to measure the GHG emissions reductions its incentive programs achieve" and "...has overstated GHG emissions reductions its incentive programs achieve". The report went on to say that we may be in danger of falling short of our climate change targets, especially since future cap-and-trade revenue is uncertain.

While land-based carbon sequestration is still a relatively new approach, we believe it is important for the state to explore all practical and affordable climate change strategies. Having a statewide registry will allow policymakers to monitor how funds are being used, which projects work best, and where investment would yield the greatest impact. This information would also be important in developing best-known methods for reducing carbon emissions.

Improving our air quality requires a comprehensive approach that explores all options. Land-based carbon sequestration is one of several alternatives that can help California move towards its climate change goals.

For these and other reasons, we support this legislation.