



For Immediate Release

## **Bay Area legislators take lead on state's environmental justice policies**

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Richmond—Bay Area legislators take statewide leadership in environmental justice policy, as demonstrated in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Environmental Justice Scorecard, released today by the California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA). The Scorecard analyzes the voting record of state legislators on key measures that impact the environment and quality of life in low-income communities and communities of color throughout California.

“People of color are California’s majority, a growing electorate, and the political future of our state. We care about the environment and it shows in poll after poll,” said Strela Cervas, CEJA’s Coordinator. “If legislators want to pass big environmental policies, they need to address the issues that communities of color care about most.”

Local Assemblymembers Nancy Skinner, Tom Ammiano, and Phil Ting were among the several who scored 100% on the Scorecard. Senator Leno also scored 100%.

“We want to recognize Nancy Skinner for her commitment to environmental justice and safety in our communities,” said Parin Shah of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network. Skinner authored AB 1634, which improves refinery worker safety and was included in the Scorecard. “We hope that new Assemblymembers Tony Thurmond and David Chiu will continue this legacy of prioritizing people’s health above all else.”

Other Bay Area legislators who scored high include the Assembly Speaker pro Tem Kevin Mullin, Assemblymember Richard Gordon, and then Assemblymember, now Senator, Bob Wieckowski.

The influence of environmental justice issues has grown in Sacramento with the election of environmental champions, Senator pro Tem De Leon and Governor Brown. “We are glad to see new leadership in the California legislature, including more decision-makers from the communities that are most impacted by pollution. We know these policymakers will lead with environmental policy that prioritizes the health and quality-of-life issues that challenge Latino, Asian Pacific American, Black, and other communities color,” said Miya Yoshitani of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network.

Advocates are also hoping that new Assemblymember David Chiu in San Francisco follow’s Mr. Ammiano’s footsteps as a strong vote on environmental justice.



The release of the Scorecard coincides with the U.S Chemical Safety Board meeting to present the final investigation report and safety recommendations regarding the 2012 Chevron refinery explosion that endangered 19 workers and caused 15,000 people to seek medical treatment.

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*APEN is guided by a vision of a world where all people have clean and healthy environments in which to live, work and play.*

*The California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA): A coalition of grassroots, community-based organizations that work to advance environmental justice in statewide policy. Members are: Asian Pacific Environmental Network, Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice, Center on Race, Poverty and the Environment, Communities for a Better Environment, Environmental Health Coalition, and People Organizing to Demand Environmental and Economic Rights.*