

Assembly Bill 1001

Assemblymember Cristina Garcia (D – 58)

SUMMARY

Assembly Bill (AB) 1001, has two components. First, the bill would require that mitigation measures identified in an environmental impact report or mitigation negative declaration to mitigate or compensate the adverse effects of a project on air or water quality directly in the disadvantaged community. Additionally, the bill would direct public agencies implementing CEQA to give consideration to the principles of environmental justice.

BACKGROUND & PROBLEM

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) is intended to inform public agencies and the communities surrounding a potential project about the environmental impacts of that project. The intent is to inform decisionmakers about the negative impacts a project may have on water or air quality in that community.

Within CEQA, there are mitigation requirements, however, those mitigation requirements are not *always* mitigated within that specific community.

Environmental justice is defined in Section 65040.12(e) of the Government Code as the “fair treatment of people of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies.”

The environmental justice movement has fought for years to ensure that all communities, especially those overburdened, have a seat at the table. Overburdened communities suffer from poor air quality, have higher incidences of asthma, diabetes and cancer. They’re sicker and dying at faster rates

that those who have the benefit of living in a community not overburdened.

SOLUTION

AB 1001 will require that mitigation measures identified in an environmental impact report or mitigation negative declaration must mitigate those impacts directly within the disadvantaged community.

AB 1001 also directs public agencies implementing CEQA to give consideration to the principles of environmental justice.

The goal of this bill is to recognize the adverse impacts that disadvantaged communities have faced and attempt to create healthier communities by requiring mitigation or compensation and additional consideration of environmental justice when implementing the CEQA process.

STATUS

Assembly Floor

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