



Senator Steven Bradford

REPRESENTING THE 35TH DISTRICT

SB 1050 – Restitution for Racially Motivated Takings

SUMMARY

SB 1050 would establish a process for the State of California to review and investigate public complaints from individuals who had their property taken without fair compensation as a result of racially motivated eminent domain, and establish a process for providing compensation.

This bill is a recommendation from the CA Reparations Task Force’s Final Report.

BACKGROUND

The State of California and local governments targeted property owned by African Americans in urban renewal and development projects for unjust uses of eminent domain, often without providing just compensation. Historically, the construction of public infrastructure disproportionately displaced and fractured African American communities.

Examples of unjust takings in California include the construction of various freeways in Southern California, the Burgess Family land in Colona that now comprises the Marshall Gold Discovery State Historic Park, and Bruce’s Beach in Manhattan Beach, among others.

In 2023, the CA Task Force to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans examined the ongoing and compounding harms experienced by African Americans as a result of slavery and the State of California’s role in perpetuating these harms.

The Reparation Task Force’s Final Report recommends the Legislature restore property taken during race-based uses of eminent domain to its

original owners or provide another effective remedy where appropriate, such as restitution or compensation.

SOLUTION

SB 1050 would require the California American Freedmen Affairs Agency to research and document properties taken as a result of racially-motivated eminent domain and establish a process for providing just compensation to the rightful owner in the form of monetary compensation, the return of land, or the conveyance of similar land, as feasible, and contingent upon an appropriation by the Legislature.

SUPPORT

ACLU California Action
Black Equity Collective
Calif. Black Power Network
Catalyst California
Equal Justice Society
LIVEFREE California
Reparations Task Force Members: Cheryl Grills, Lisa Holder, Don Tamaki
Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiatives
California Association of Realtors
Calif. African American Chamber of Commerce
California Organizations for Reparations Coalition
Greater Sacramento Urban League
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors
Multi-faith ACTION Coalition (Contra Costa Co.)
NAACP CA-HI State Conference
National Black Wall Street Project, Sacramento Chapter
Santa Monica Democratic Club

CONTACT



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