



## Staff Report Item 11

**TO:** East Bay Community Energy Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Melissa Brandt, Senior Director of Public Policy and Deputy General Counsel  
**SUBJECT:** Legislative Position on AB 1839  
**DATE:** January 22, 2020

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### Recommendation

Take a “support” position on AB 1839 (Bonta).

### Background and Discussion

Assembly member Bonta introduced Assembly Bill (AB) 1839 on January 6, 2020. This bill would add a section to the Public Resources Code to create the California Green New Deal. The goal is for the state to adopt a policy framework to implement, through principles and goals, a commitment to reduce severe climate change impacts while protecting the public health and the environment, to overcome systemic racial injustice, and to ensure all California residents enjoy a 21st century standard of living without regard to their wealth or income.

Among the principles that the bill declares all residents have the right to is “access to clean, affordable, carbon-free, and reliable utilities, including energy and communications.” The bill would require the Legislature and state agencies to consider goals around:

- (a) Enacting measures to ensure a just transition in California for workers impacted by the phasing out of fossil fuels.
- (b) Ensuring that the jobs created or maintained by climate policy are good, family-supporting jobs with career ladders, benefits and protections for workers’ rights to organize, and that pipelines into these jobs are created for workers from historically disadvantaged communities, in accord with the recommendations of the climate labor report mandated in Chapter 135 of the Statutes of 2017 (Assembly Bill 398).
- (c) Significantly increasing measures to assist those impacted by the effects of climate change, including, but not limited to, floods, fires, heatwaves, sea level rise, droughts, and disease.
- (d) Significantly reducing disparate standard of living indices for historically impacted communities of color, including income inequality, educational achievement gaps, health care access gaps, and environmental burdens by 2030.

- (e) Increasing affordable housing and public transportation by double their current availability by 2030, maximizing safe, complete streets for walking and biking, and replacing remaining gas vehicles with electric vehicles.
- (f) Accelerating reductions of air pollution to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of climate change.

The bill would further create a Council with a membership of state agency leaders appointed by the Governor. The Council would submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2022 to make recommendations on policies to achieve the goals stated above.

EBCE has joined Asm Bonta's stakeholder group to continue to refine the bill over the next month. Asm Bonta's office has asked potential supporters to submit their support letters early on in the legislative cycle. Given that a number of the goals in the Green New Deal as laid out in this bill align with EBCE's general legislative principles around accelerating decarbonization and promoting local development, as well as our public policy positions on disadvantaged communities, environmental sustainability, and educational, neighborhood & social services as laid out in our Legislative Program, EBCE staff recommend taking a "support" position on AB 1839.

AB 1839 is pending referral to a policy committee and is expected to be amended in February.

**Fiscal Impact**

None.

**Attachments**

None.