

## AB 1815 (ALEJO)

### GHG Technical Assistance Program

#### Summary

AB 1815 would increase access to investments from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund for environmentally and economically disadvantaged communities. The Bill would create a technical assistance program that would help environmentally and economically disadvantaged communities to identify, apply for, and utilize GGRF Investments.

#### Background

In 2006, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, AB 32 was signed into law. This bill created a comprehensive, long-term approach to address climate change that includes a market-based auction program that generates funds to support programs and projects to reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions (GHGs). In 2012, the governor signed AB 1532 (Perez) which requires the Department of Finance to develop a 3-year investment plan to determine the best use of the GGRF funds so that they both reduce GHGs and provide co-benefits. That same year, the governor signed SB 535 (De Leon) which directs the California Environmental Protection Agency to identify DACs for investment opportunities and which requires the Department of Finance to allocate 25% of GHG funds to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities.

While 1532 and 535 set the framework for securing funds to address not just climate change but also critical co-benefits such as air quality improvement, workforce development, transit improvements and housing opportunities, many disadvantaged communities lack the managerial and technical capacity to compete successfully for these funds, leaving them further behind. In early rounds of GGRF programs, many disadvantaged communities and the jurisdictions in which they reside failed to

submit competitive applications, or chose not to apply at all. The technical assistance this bill aims to provide would function as a base of financial support for those who lack a developed infrastructure to apply for these types of programs.

#### This Bill

Specifically, AB 1815 would provide funding to regional agencies, not-for-profit organizations or other TA providers to assist environmentally and economically disadvantaged communities with assistance in identifying potential funding sources within the GGRF and developing competitive funding applications for GGRF programs. TA providers may also support community engagement efforts that in turn will support project applications and project implementation. Environmentally and economically disadvantaged communities include census tracts that are in the top 25% of CalEnviroScreen or have a median household income at or below the state median household income.

#### Support

Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability  
California Coalition for Rural Housing  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation

#### For More Information

Contact Phoebe Seaton at Leadership Counsel for Justice for Accountability at (310) 980-6494

