

April 7, 2016

Honorable Luis Alejo,  
State Capitol, Room 2117  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0030

**Re: Support for AB 1815 (Alejo) - GGRF Technical Assistance Program**

Dear Assembly Member Alejo:

The Fresno Council of Governments would like to express strong support for Assembly Bill 1815 (Alejo), which would increase access for disadvantaged communities (DAC) to cap-and-trade revenues. The bill seeks to assist communities that need financial assistance to navigate through the pre-planning and application processes.

AB 1815 will increase access for disadvantaged communities (DACs) that are eligible to receive cap-and-trade revenues as directed by Senate Bill 535, which requires that 25 percent of the proceeds from the state's cap-and-trade auctions be invested in projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, including 10 percent for projects located within these areas. AB 1815 has the potential to make DACs more competitive by providing technical assistance and support through the extensive and overwhelming application and research process that is needed to apply and receive these funds.

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 identifies the California communities most burdened by pollution from multiple sources and most vulnerable to its effects. The tool identifies the San Joaquin Valley as one of the severely disadvantaged regions in the state by considering several types of pollution and environmental factors, population characteristics and socioeconomic factors. Pollution levels in the San Joaquin Valley continue to be unsustainable and many of the state's regions impacted by high levels of pollution also have high rates of unemployment. This bill would bridge the gap between those who need AB 32 funding and those who have difficulty applying for available funds.

By providing funding for a comprehensive and strategic technical assistance program for DACs, eligible entities would be able to work in collaboration with local governments to enhance their ability to apply competitively for AB 32 funding. Without technical assistance, many DACs in California will not have the financial and staffing resources to compete well with others for funding opportunities. This bill would ensure DACs are more competitive when applying for the State's cap-and-trade funding.

*We thank you for your strong support in improving disadvantaged communities. Once again, we strongly support AB 1815 (Alejo) which would provide disadvantaged communities financial assistance to improve their quality of life.*

Sincerely,



Amarpreet Dhaliwal, Mayor of City of San Joaquin  
Chairman of the Fresno Council of Government Policy Board