



Senator Melissa Hurtado

REPRESENTING SENATE DISTRICT 14

Senate Bill 351 (Hurtado) Equitable Climate Resilience Act *As Amended March 25, 2019*

SUMMARY

SB 351 will ensure disadvantaged unincorporated communities (DUCs) are eligible to receive implementation funding from the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) program in some of the communities most vulnerable to climate change.

BACKGROUND

The effects of climate change have negative consequences around the world and many of these impacts are felt acutely by the most vulnerable communities in our state. In response, California stepped up as a global champion of environmental justice to combat climate change through innovative programs designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support long term climate resilience. In order to help our state's most vulnerable communities meet our state's environmental goals, the TCC program was created by the passage of AB 2722 (Burke, 2016) to facilitate holistic, community driven and neighborhood-level climate strategies including affordable housing and transit investments, pedestrian and bike projects, water and energy resilience programs, and investments in greening.

Administered by the Strategic Growth Council (SGC), grant funding helps to improve the economy, the environment, and public health in communities most affected by pollution and climate change while helping reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PROBLEM

Although DUCs have been eligible to receive funding to develop TCC plans through SGC's program, they have not been eligible to implement those plans. DUCs individually represent a community of Californians who often fall short of receiving their fair share of critical resources and often remain unable to contribute to our state's

ambitious climate goals. In the Central Valley, Central Coast, and the Inland Valley, as well as other rural regions, DUCs represent an untapped opportunity for neighborhood health and community resilience as decades of underinvestment has resulted in communities that are most vulnerable to climate change, and least able to adapt to it.

SOLUTION

This bill requires the Strategic Growth Council to consider applications for projects in disadvantaged communities in unincorporated areas for TCC program's implementation grant funding.

SUPPORT

Leadership Counsel on Justice and Accountability (Co-Sponsor)
San Bernardino County (Co-Sponsor)
California Environmental Justice Alliance
California Institute of Rural Studies
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
Center for Sustainable Neighborhoods
Community Water Center
Faith in the Valley
Public Interest Law Project
Self Help Enterprises

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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