

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

June 14, 2022

Support for Assembly Bill 2419: The California Justice40 Act

On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, which established the Justice40 Initiative with the goal of delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits from relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are underserved and overburdened with pollution. This order integrates environmental justice as a part of the mission of every federal agency, pursuing a whole government approach to address current and historical environmental injustices. Subsequently, President Biden signed the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Executive Order 14052 into law in November 2021, stating that implementation of the IIJA should prioritize investing public dollars equitably, including through the Justice40 Initiative. The passage of these laws signaled a new approach to federal infrastructure investment and an acknowledgement of the inequities in transportation, economic opportunity, and environmental pollution that have disproportionately harmed low-income communities of color as a result of previous infrastructure initiatives.

Given that the IIJA will deliver over \$44 billion to the State of California (State) for infrastructure projects, a coalition of environmental justice organizations is co-sponsoring Assembly Bill 2419 (Bryan), the California Justice40 Act. This bill ensures that federal

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climate, clean energy, and other infrastructure investments will advance California's goals to promote equity, environmental justice, and high-road jobs through targeted investment in disadvantaged and low-income communities, using the State's environmental justice mapping tool the CalEnviroScreen. The bill also establishes the Justice40 Oversight Committee to track the use of federal funds, develop additional labor, climate, and equity standards, and make recommendations for infrastructure projects in disadvantaged and low-income communities throughout the State. The California Justice40 Act would ensure that federal funds reach the most disadvantaged communities using the State's proven environmental justice data and tools.

The intent of this bill closely aligns with motions recently adopted by the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors (Board) that seek to prioritize equity, sustainability, climate resilience, and high road workforce development in the County's infrastructure projects and positions the County to deliver on the Justice40 Initiative's promise at the local level. Early action on the part of the State and County will help ensure our readiness to receive and direct funds to projects that provide meaningful benefits to communities that have borne the brunt of environmental injustice and inequitable investment for far too long.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the County's Sacramento Advocates to support Assembly Bill 2419 which would require at least 40% of federal climate, clean energy and other infrastructure funds be allocated to benefit disadvantaged communities and an additional 10% of funds be allocated to benefit low-income communities and households.

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