



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter: April 2024

Welcome to the April [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! In this month's newsletter, we will share BGA CA's coalition budget letter, an update on bills we support, our coalition's comments to the California Energy Commission (CEC) on AB 525, and a spotlight on BGA partners the United Auto Workers' (UAW) and CA Environmental Voters' efforts centering workers in the clean energy transition.

Coalition Budget Priorities

BGA CA coalition partners came together to highlight their top budget priorities, including:

- Equitable Building Decarbonization Program;
- High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) Apprenticeship and Innovation Fund;
- Managed Care Organization (MCO) Tax;
- Healthcare Worker Minimum Wage (SB 525) Implementation;
- Community Resilience Centers (CRC), and
- Displaced Oil and Gas Worker Fund (DOGWF).

Read the full letter here: [BGA CA Budget Letter](#)

Legislative Update

BGA CA supports the following bills:

AB 3258 (Bryan) - Requires the Cal/OSHA Standards Board to expand Process Safety Management (PSM) for Petroleum Refineries, to include refineries that are now processing renewable and other feedstocks in place of petroleum. This bill will make said facilities safer for workers and is sponsored by BGA CA partner the United Steelworkers.

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) - Creates a plan to decarbonize school buildings and create a healthy environment for students. The goal is to create a plan to identify the most efficient ways to make these updates for climate-resilient schools. BGA CA partner California Federation of Teachers is sponsoring this bill.

SB 1337 (Gonzalez) - Enacts important transparency updates to the signature gathering process to ensure that voters have access to relevant information before agreeing to sign a petition. Empowering voters to transparently view the funders of an effort to overturn state law will allow for more informed decision-making. This bill is sponsored by BGA CA coalition partner the Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

SB 984 (Wahab) - Authorizes a state agency to undertake a major state construction project only if that project is governed by a project labor agreement and if that project labor agreement includes community benefit goals and apprenticeships. If implemented, it would ensure blue-collar construction jobs provide family-sustaining wages and provide jobs for underrepresented communities.

SB 1325 (Durazo) - Maximizes the benefits of public investments by empowering agencies to use best value procurement for public purchases. Best value procurement is a comprehensive policy framework that empowers government entities to consider important factors, such as community and environmental benefits, when determining successful bidders. This procurement model has successfully created good jobs and strengthened communities in California and this bill will ensure agencies use it for public purchases.

SB 1375 (Durazo) - Creates the Equity, Climate Resilience, and Quality Jobs Fund in the state treasury for deposit of 2% of all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, CHIPS and Sciences Act, and Inflation Reduction Act funds. These funds will be available to the California Workforce Development Board to invest in sector-based workforce development programs through HRTPs, High Road Construction Careers, and other workforce programs that drive poverty-reducing standards and reach communities with the highest barriers to employment and economic equity. We need this bill to create training opportunities and high-quality jobs for Californians through the billions of dollars of federal investment coming into the state.

AB 3190 (Haney) - Closes the loopholes in the state's public works law that prevent construction workers on affordable housing projects from receiving a prevailing wage. As a result, it will ensure all construction workers receive adequate wages and help the state meet its housing goals.

Regulatory Update

AB 525 Implementation: BGA CA [submitted comments](#) in response to the California Energy Commission (CEC) Draft Commission Report AB 525 Offshore Wind Strategic Plan. BGA's comments urge the CEC to provide details related to creating high-quality union jobs, training and employment benefits, ensuring environmental justice, and environmental protection.

Spotlight: Labor and Environmental Groups Build Solidarity to Accelerate Transition to a Clean Economy

By The United Auto Workers and California Environmental Voters



BGA staff visiting a UAW distribution facility in Rancho Cucamonga recently

The UAW and California Environmental Voters (EnviroVoters) are committed to a worker-led clean energy transition, for the environment and for workers. It is essential for groups to come together and show solidarity as we build a strong economy that benefits workers and the environment.

In California, UAW represents over 50,000 academic workers, workers in the automobile and aerospace industries, and more. Members have fought at the bargaining table to win environmentally friendly policies for workers to access and now UAW is taking the fight beyond the bargaining table to transform the clean energy sector so that every worker building the clean economy has access to good union jobs.

Centering the worker-led clean energy transition is paying off. In 2023—as a result of the UAW Stand Up Strike—General Motors agreed to include its workers at the Ultium electric vehicle (EV) battery plant in Lordstown, OH in the master agreement. This created the first unionized EV battery plant in the United States.

Additionally, UAW members showed up in Sacramento and Los Angeles for the SB 150 agency presentation on workforce standards recommendations on the federal money coming into California. In coalition with California Labor Federation; Jobs to Move America; BGA; the International Association of Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART); International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW); and more, UAW delivered public comments emphasizing the detriment to Californians when we subsidize low-road companies like Tesla who pollute the environment and exploit workers. The group highlighted a path forward using federal funding for companies who commit to high-road jobs and community benefits agreements.

EnviroVoters attended the SB 150 hearing in solidarity, speaking on the importance of a worker-led transition to a clean economy that provides high-quality, dignified jobs to ensure workers are not left behind. Since then, EnviroVoters has continued to show solidarity by signing a labor-led coalition letter to save funding in the budget for the HRTPs Program. Environmental groups recognize that HRTPs are being utilized to ensure equitable high-quality jobs are created in the clean economy to tackle California's clean energy priorities such as offshore wind, building decarbonization, and energy transition.

Environmental groups increasingly support good policies in the workforce development space—including 19 groups that signed on to this labor and environmental [coalition letter for SB 1375](#). There is great solidarity building around a worker led clean economy and approaching just solutions from an intersectional socioeconomic perspective that leaves no one behind.

UAW and EnviroVoters are committed to building a sustainable future for all. As more environmental organizations, labor unions, and community groups come together with a shared vision, we can uplift communities, build good union jobs, and preserve our planet.

We hope you enjoy reading our newsletter and learning more about our work. If you have any questions, comments, or feedback on what you want us to cover, please let us know: tchowdhury@bluegreenalliance.org.

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