



BlueGreen Alliance California Newsletter May 2024

Welcome to the May [BlueGreen Alliance California](#) (BGA CA) newsletter! May has been a busy month with the governor’s budget revision as California faces a historic budget deficit and the legislature makes the final push for bills to pass out of their respective chambers. In addition to those updates, we will share details on a newly released report examining the opportunities and impacts of recent federal funding and an update on the coalition-supported bills that passed to the next chamber. Scroll to the bottom for an update on the High Road Training Partnership program in the Joint Legislative Budget Plan.

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BGA and the National Skills Coalition [commissioned a report](#) that examines labor supply, demand and potential shortages from recent federal laws—Inflation Reduction Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and the CHIPS and Science Act. The report builds on an analysis from last year that found the combined investments in the three laws will create and support nearly [3 million jobs per year over their lifetime](#). It shows how much opportunity these investments bring to workers and will allow for a shift from low-wage jobs to careers with benefits, especially for women and people of color.

“Unions are already successfully bringing more women and workers of color into these occupations by targeting their outreach for apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs,” **said BlueGreen Alliance Executive Director Jason Walsh**. “But, realizing that opportunity will require increased training, pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeships, and postsecondary educational programs for workers—especially women and workers of color.”

Read the full report [here](#).

Legislative Update

The following BGA CA supported bills passed into the next chamber this month:

[AB 3190 \(Haney\)](#) - Closes the loopholes in the state’s public works law that prevents construction workers on affordable housing projects from receiving a prevailing wage.

[AB 3258 \(Bryan\)](#) - Requires the Cal/OSHA Standards Board to expand Process Safety Management (PSM) for Petroleum Refineries to refineries now processing renewable fuels and other feedstocks in place of petroleum.

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 (PLA) and if that PLA includes community benefit goals and apprenticeships.

SB 1182 (Gonzalez) - Creates a plan to decarbonize school buildings and to identify the most efficient ways to make these updates for climate-resilient schools and a healthy environment for students.

SB 1325 (Durazo) - Maximizes the benefits of public investments by empowering agencies to use best value procurement for public purchases.

SB 1337 (Gonzalez) - Enacts important transparency updates to the referendum petition signature gathering process to ensure that voters have access to relevant information before agreeing to sign.

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.

Spotlight: Progress in the Campaign to Save California's High Road Training Partnerships Program



Eight years ago, the California Workforce Development Board created a nationally recognized model for advancing job quality, the High Road Training Partnerships (H RTP) program. The program brings together employers, labor unions, environmental advocates, environmental justice and community groups, tribes, educational institutions, workforce agencies, and others to collaboratively develop workforce strategies and training programs that meet the industry's skilled workforce needs while also improving job quality and promoting equity. It has been a

critical tool to cultivate the growth of high-quality jobs within the clean energy and clean manufacturing industries, and to support regional and sector-specific high road economic development.

Amidst a tight budget year, the governor's office proposed freezing any new funding for the program at a critical time when the program is needed most as a tool to support California's clean economy. In response, BGA has been proud to join a broad statewide coalition led by the California Labor Federation to save the H RTP program. **And our efforts are paying off!** The recently announced Joint Legislative Budget Plan incorporates our coalition's request of restoring \$25 million to the H RTP program.

Thank you to all the BGA partners who signed CLF's sign-on letter, and a special shout-out to those that joined us at the Save H RTP Lobby Day in Sacramento on May 7!

HRTPs are the linchpin to California's strategy to meet its climate goals and create high-quality union jobs at the same time. It is imperative that the funding outlined in the Joint Legislative Budget Plan remains intact in the final budget. Stay tuned for more updates and action opportunities.

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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The BlueGreen Alliance unites labor unions and environmental organizations to solve today's environmental challenges in ways that create and maintain quality jobs and build a clean, thriving, and equitable economy. Visit <http://www.bluegreenalliance.org>.